



## **MN Gun Owners Law Center - SF3655**

Chair and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee:

On behalf of the Minnesota Gun Owners Law Center, I write in opposition to SF 3655.

SF 3655 imposes a sweeping ban on the ownership and possession of “semiautomatic military-style assault weapons” and large-capacity magazines, backed by felony penalties, forced dispossession, a certification regime for current owners, recurring renewals, fees, storage mandates set by rule, and consent-to-inspection mandates.

The bill is not narrowly drawn. Its definition extends well beyond a short list of named firearms and reaches broad categories of common semiautomatic rifles, pistols, and shotguns based on ordinary design features such as a pistol grip, thumbhole stock, telescoping stock, barrel shroud, threaded barrel, or the ability to accept a detachable magazine. It also bans possession outright unless a current owner enters the state’s certification system and complies with ongoing conditions, including allowing law enforcement inspection of storage. Those features create serious legal problems.

First, the bill targets a broad class of firearms that are commonly owned for lawful purposes, including self-defense, sport shooting, and ordinary possession in the home. The Supreme Court of the United States has repeatedly held that arms in common use are presumptively protected by the Second Amendment.

Second, the bill conditions continued possession on government certification, repeated renewal, and forced consent to storage inspections by law enforcement, challenging protections granted by the Fourth Amendment.

Third, the bill forces owners who do not submit to that regime to surrender the firearm, render it permanently inoperable, or remove it from Minnesota. Those are not modest regulations. They are substantial burdens on ownership, possession, and keeping arms in the home.

The bill is also poorly matched to Minnesota’s own crime data. In the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension’s Uniform Crime Reports, rifles were listed in only 2 criminal homicide cases in 2022, 5 in 2023, and 3 in 2024 statewide. Handguns, by contrast, were listed 46 times in 2022, 61 times in 2023, and 60 times in 2024. Whatever one thinks of broad rifle bans as a policy matter, Minnesota’s own homicide data show that rifles are a rare homicide weapon in this state. This bill responds to a marginal category of crime with one of the broadest firearm prohibitions the Legislature can enact.

Minnesota should not enact a broad felony ban on possession of common semiautomatic firearms where the legal burden is severe, exposure to litigation is certain, and the Minnesota-specific evidence of rifle crime is slight. For those reasons, among many others, SF 3655 should not advance.

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Doar, President - Minnesota Gun Owners Law Center