



The Island of Dispossessed Guns

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As a gun owner in Rhode Island, you may think that no matter what wacko state laws legislators impose to make it harder to buy weapons, at least you'll remain secure in your right to the arms you've already legally purchased.

Not so. *Bearing Arms* [alerts us](#) to the fact that two bills pending in the state legislature jeopardize your right to keep your already owned — lawfully obtained — firearms. One bill does so immediately. The other paves the way for follow-up legislation that does

so immediately.

H8073 “updates” a bill passed last year that banned the sale of “assault weapons” — a kind of weapon that is clearly the opposite of those used to soothe and caress. Current “assault weapon” owners were grandfathered in. Having bought their “assault weapons” when it was legal to do so, owners wouldn’t have to give them up.

But that was last year. Now, if H8073 becomes law, Rhode Islanders will have to turn in those weapons or face penalties like up to ten years in prison and a fine of up to \$10,000.

Looking at the [bill](#), you see a reference to restrictions on “manufacture, sale, and purchase of prohibited firearms” crossed out and replaced by reference to restrictions on “manufacture, sale, *possession*, and purchase” of same. Just a quick fix.

Another bill, H7755, would impose onerous training-certificate and waiting-period requirements for new handgun purchases. You would not need to comply to keep handguns you already have . . . unless the wording is ever changed.

This is Common Sense. I’m Paul Jacob.