

The Making America Safe and Secure (MASS) Act

The Making America Safe and Secure Act would incentivize states to adopt gun-licensing standards similar to those already proven to be effective in Massachusetts. Massachusetts has comprehensive gun licensing laws, and not coincidentally, one of the lowest gun death rates in the nation. Specifically, the MASS Act would:

Authorize Department of Justice grant funding to incentivize and encourage states to adopt and maintain comprehensive licensing standards for all gun owners and dealers.

Set forth principles to obtain grants, including, but not limited to, requirements that:

- All gun owners have a license, not only at the time of a firearms purchase, but for the entirety of their ownership;
- Any person who sells ammunition or sells, rents, or leases a certain number of firearms — as established by the state — in a calendar year obtain a state firearms dealer license;
- The state establish standards for individuals prohibited from obtaining a firearms license or firearms dealer license;
- The chief of police or the board or officer having control of the police in a city or town, or a designee of that department, function as the licensing authority;
- Licensing standards for firearms owners include a thorough background check and a determination of suitability by licensing authority, which may include an in-person interview and the submission of references stating that the applicant is of sound mind and character;
- First time firearms license applicants complete safety training;
- Licensing standards for firearms dealers include an investigation into the criminal history of the applicant;
- The licensing authority determine standards by which firearms dealers operating in the state must comply;
- The licensing authority be given the discretion to deny, suspend, or revoke a firearms license or dealers license if an applicant is determined to be unsuitable;
- The state establish a judicial review process for individuals aggrieved by the denial, suspension, or revocation of a firearms license or dealers license;
- The state establish a process under which family members of an individual who may be a risk to himself, herself, or others may petition for an Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO); and
- The state establish processes under which individuals who are subject to an ERPO, or whose license has been revoked, suspended, or denied shall surrender or transfer firearms under their possession.

Obligate states receiving grants to submit an annual report to the Department of Justice to ensure transparency and accountability.