

Judiciary Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-6491

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING ELECTRONIC DEFENSE WEAPONS.

Vote Date: 4/6/2021

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/5/2021

File No.: 575

Disclaimer: *The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

SPONSORS OF BILL:

The Judiciary Committee

Rep. Craig C. Fishbein, 90th Dist.,
Rep. Doug Dubitsky, 47th Dist.,
Rep. Travis Simms, 140th Dist.,
Rep. Mike France, 42nd Dist.
Sen. Rob Sampson, 16th Dist.,
Rep. Brian Lanoue, 45th Dist.
Rep. Jason Perillo, 113th Dist.,
Rep. Cara Christine Pavalock-D'Amato, 77th Dist.
Rep. Gale L. Mastrofrancesco, 80th Dist.

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill would allow members of the public to possess nonlethal electronic defense weapons for the purpose of self-defense. In 2016, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in the case *Caetano v. Massachusetts* that electronic defense mechanisms, more commonly known as "stun guns", are protected under the second amendment, and this change in statute would reflect that ruling.

SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE:

The substitute language changes the effective date to July 2022. The substitute language also makes the sale of nonlethal electronic defense weapons to individuals 21 years of age or younger a class D felony.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

State of Connecticut, Division of Criminal Justice opposes this bill and states that this bill should be amended to include a requirement for any operator of an electronic defense

weapon to have a license to carry such a device. It's further testified that the Division is opposed to removing electronic defense weapons from § 53a-217, which is stated as preventing those who have a previous felony conviction, an outstanding restraining order, and individuals who have recently been treated for psychiatric disabilities from possessing certain weapons. The Division recognizes the 2016 U.S. Supreme Court case *Caetano v. Massachusetts* which ruled that electronic defense weapons are protected under the second amendment but does not believe that this ruling would prevent legislation from requiring a license to carry such weapons.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Connecticut, Resident and Judicial Marshal, Brandon Beaudoin, supports this legislation and states that it is especially important for victims of domestic violence to be able to protect themselves and should be afforded the option of a nonlethal weapon.

Connecticut Citizens Defense League, Legislative Coordinator, Ray Bevis supports this bill and states that this bill is based on the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Caetano v. Massachusetts* and that this bill is important for victims of domestic violence to be able to protect themselves.

Friends of Connecticut Sportsmen, President, Keith Cagle supports this legislation and states that since the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Caetano v. Massachusetts* that electronic defense weapons fall under the protections of the second amendment.

Connecticut Citizens Defense League, President, Holly Sullivan supports this bill and states that this legislation will allow women who do not carry a firearm to carry a nonlethal means of protection and be able to better protect themselves from a dangerous situation.

The following people support this bill:

Connecticut Republican Assembly, President, Anne Manusky
Train Safe Academy, Instructor, William Hampton

The following Connecticut Residents support this bill citing the 2016 U.S. Supreme Court ruling *Caetano v. Massachusetts* and the desire for personal protection:

James F. Aiello
Erik Albrycht, Southington
Richard Anziano, Killingworth
Melanie Atwater-Young, Montville
Oliver Augustin, New Haven
Joseph Aukstolis, Manchester
Harold Ayala, Stratford
Erik Barboza, Uncasville
Eric Barkhurst, Plainfield
Dom Basile, Oakville
Willard Bechter, Newington
John F. Beidler, Southington
Patricia A. Beidler, Southington
Stephen Bennett, New Haven

Josh Benoit, U.S. Army Veteran, Somers
John Bernier, Salem
Jon Betts, Madison
David Bicknell, East Haven
Christopher Bitel, Middletown
Eric Blaise, Middletown
Alan Blaschik, East Haddam
Karin Blaschik, East Haddam
Sara Blaschik, Chester
Rev. Ron Boratko, Torrington
Wayne Botha, South Windsor
Richard Boucher
Jim Bucci, New Haven
Lorie C., Thomaston

Nicolas Cabrera, East Hartford
Robert Caponetti, Warren
Armond Cardillo, Oxford
Tom Casey
John Castiline, Hamden
Chas Catania, Sherman
David Cinquanta, Guilford
Mark Ciosek, New Britain
Carlos Claudio
Eryka L. Claudio
Shane Coates, South Windsor
Heather Colletti, Preston
Anthony J. DeTullio Sr., Milford
Tony Costanzo, Wethersfield
Guy Cranfill
John Cripps, Seymour
Jeff Cruz, Newtown
Jeff Cullins, Lisbon
Richard Czackowski, Guilford
Robert D'Eon, Middletown
Susan D'Agostino, Niantic
Arthur Daigle, Plymouth
John Dale III, Cromwell
Eddie H. Daniels III, Law Enforcement Officer
Ruth A. Daniels
Tiffany Daniels
Victor Darin, Branford
Gabriel DaSilva
James Davis, North Branford
Anthony Deleonardo, Guilford
James Dempsey
Joseph DeTullio, Milford
Guthrie Dinda, Lebanon
Roy D. Downey, Higganum
Elizabeth Drysdale, Cheshire
Scott Emanuelson, Waterford
Mark Eskra, Middletown
Mario Fansano
Richard B. Fisher, Newtown
Jeff Fluckiger, Ellington
Richard Forest
Manuel Freitas, East Lyme
Maria Freitas, East Lyme
Tracey G., Wethersfield
Robert Gabris, Brookfield
Mark Georger, Farmington
Kyle Gless, Waterford
Ronald Goodmaster, Naugatuck

Ted Grabarz, New Canaan
Martin Grabeck, Wethersfield
Joseph Grzesiak, South Windsor
Walter Hagedorn, Milford
Mark Hansen, Shelton
Bill Hillman, Bethel
Diane Hodyl, East Hartford
Ted Hsu
Domenico Iacobelli, West Haven
Kenneth Jacque, Meriden
Paul D. Jakubson, Clinton
Tim Johnson, Old Saybrook
Michael Jurkowski, Derby
James Kalach, Cheshire
Christopher Kalkreuth, Higganum
Scott Kasper, Killingworth
Anthony Kearns, Durham
John Kershaw, Stratford
Jeff Kersten, West Hartford
John Kissane
Douglas Kneissl, Derby
John Koch III, Shelton
Andrew Koehm, Brookfield
John C. Kornegay, Barkhamsted
Mark Kosobiecki, Milford
Craig Kumiega, Manchester
Craig Kupson
Meg Kupson
Dr. Walter Kupson, Middlebury
C. Marcella Kurowski, Wallingford
William R. Lacey, New London
Vincent Lafragola, East Haven
Chris Lambert, Brooklyn
Kenia Lanuzo
Howard Larson, Tolland
Robert Lavezzoli, Killingworth
Cheryl Lemos, Stratford
Christopher Lent, Columbia
Michael Levin, New Canaan
April Limauro, Guilford
Marino A. Limauro, Guilford
Bruce Lindsley, Bristol
Dana Longley, North Haven
Jose A. Lozada
Cecilia Luzzi, New Haven
Shawn J. Luzzi, New Haven
Ed Maccio
Aaron Maitz, Avon
Brendan Malone, Suffield

Tom Maloney, Stonington
Dan Marcil, Thomaston
Robert Margolis, Avon
Edwin Martinez
Frank Mastriano, East Haven
Janice Mastriano, East Haven
Richard W. Mayhew, Plantsville
Laurene Y. McCrann, Southington
Kristen A. McNulty, Wolcott
Paul McVey
Laura Michalek
George Mitchell, Southington
Jeffrey Moores, Farmington
Patricia Moores, Farmington
Luis Nesprido, Southington
Zac Neville
Anthony North, Bloomfield
Robert J. O'Connell, Southington
William Oliver
Gabriel Palmieri, North Haven
Joe Parillo
Robert G. Paris, Lebanon
Jacqueline Pasqualucci, Woodbury
Joseph Pasqualucci, Woodbury
Randall Pawlikowski, Lisbon
Armando Perruc, Weatogue
Ada Perez, Bridgeport
Diane F. Petra
Guido L. Petra
Allen F. Petri
Michael Phelan, Madison
Thomas Phelps, Lisbon
W.D. Polowy, Northfield
Christina D. Poole, Branford
Daniel Poole, Southbury
Frederick Porrello, Branford
Mario Proto, Branford
Robert J. Prusak, Wilton
Joe Pugliese, Plantsville
Benjamin Purdy, Simsbury
John Quimby, North Haven
Richard J. Quinn, Bethel
Jason Radice, Norwalk
Valerie Ragucci, Plantsville
Thomas Reed, Higganum
Jerry Richard, Deep River
James Ritchie, Bristol
Audrey Roberts, Higganum
Ronald Robeson, Preston

Arthur E. Robinson III
Priscilla Rodriguez, East Haven
Jessica Rogers
Bryan Rome, Granby
Frank Russello, Guilford
Jon Russo
Eric Rustic, Thompson
Robert Saunders, Thomaston
William Scarpa, Guilford
Richard A. Shea Jr., Prospect
Edward M. Singleton
Jermaine Smoakes
Richard Souza, East Hartford
Robert Starr, Torrington
Darryl Steding, Stafford
Pavel Straznický MD, Southington
Gary M. Sylvestre, Glastonbury
Arthur Tiede, Southington
Pablo Torres, Guilford
Mark Trotochaud, Oakdale
Deborah Vai
Santo Veneziano
Christopher Vereneau, Middletown
Michael Veronese, East Hampton
Alan Verrastro, Berlin
Carli Villa, East Hampton
Wayne Waldron
Bridget Waldron
Joan Walker, Madison
John Walters, Trumbull
William C. Waterhouse, Mystic
Daniel Watson, Norwich
Kurt Weisheit, Terryville
Dan Whalen
George Michael White
Eugene Williams, Bristol
Matthew Winters, Burlington
Kris Witherill
Claire Wong-Ostapowicz, Wallingford
Francisco Yao, Hartford

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

The following people oppose this bill:

Old Saybrook CT, Resident, Guy LaBella

CT Resident, Sean Rossi

Stratford CT, Resident, Ronald Prusaczyk

Quaker Hill CT, Resident, Adam Atchison-Lynde

Wethersfield CT, Resident, Elizabeth Baio

Reported by: Justin Kaiser

Date: 4/14/2021