

**As Introduced**

**136th General Assembly**

**Regular Session**

**2025-2026**

**H. B. No. 331**

**Representatives Deeter, Fischer**

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To amend sections 1533.04, 2923.11, and 2923.17 of  
the Revised Code to remove firearm mufflers and  
suppressors from the classification of dangerous  
ordnance.

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**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** That sections 1533.04, 2923.11, and 2923.17 of  
the Revised Code be amended to read as follows:

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**Sec. 1533.04.** (A) A person who holds a valid hunting  
license issued under this chapter and who hunts game birds or  
wild quadrupeds may use a suppressor attached to a gun that is  
authorized to be used for hunting by section 1533.16 of the  
Revised Code while hunting, ~~provided that the person is~~  
~~authorized to possess the suppressor under state and federal~~  
~~laws and has registered the suppressor in accordance with the~~  
~~"National Firearms Act," 68A Stat. 725 (1934), 26 U.S.C. 5841,~~  
~~et seq., as amended.~~

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(B) As used in this section, "suppressor" means any device  
used for diminishing the sound of any shot, bullet, or  
projectile that is discharged from a gun that is authorized to  
be used for hunting by section 1533.16 of the Revised Code.

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**Sec. 2923.11.** As used in sections 2923.11 to 2923.24 of

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the Revised Code: 21

(A) "Deadly weapon" means any instrument, device, or thing 22  
capable of inflicting death, and designed or specially adapted 23  
for use as a weapon, or possessed, carried, or used as a weapon. 24

(B) (1) "Firearm" means any deadly weapon capable of 25  
expelling or propelling one or more projectiles by the action of 26  
an explosive or combustible propellant. "Firearm" includes an 27  
unloaded firearm, and any firearm that is inoperable but that 28  
can readily be rendered operable. 29

(2) When determining whether a firearm is capable of 30  
expelling or propelling one or more projectiles by the action of 31  
an explosive or combustible propellant, the trier of fact may 32  
rely upon circumstantial evidence, including, but not limited 33  
to, the representations and actions of the individual exercising 34  
control over the firearm. 35

(C) "Handgun" means any of the following: 36

(1) Any firearm that has a short stock and is designed to 37  
be held and fired by the use of a single hand; 38

(2) Any combination of parts from which a firearm of a 39  
type described in division (C) (1) of this section can be 40  
assembled. 41

(D) "Semi-automatic firearm" means any firearm designed or 42  
specially adapted to fire a single cartridge and automatically 43  
chamber a succeeding cartridge ready to fire, with a single 44  
function of the trigger. 45

(E) "Automatic firearm" means any firearm designed or 46  
specially adapted to fire a succession of cartridges with a 47  
single function of the trigger. 48

(F) "Sawed-off firearm" means a shotgun with a barrel less than eighteen inches long, or a rifle with a barrel less than sixteen inches long, or a shotgun or rifle less than twenty-six inches long overall. "Sawed-off firearm" does not include any firearm with an overall length of at least twenty-six inches that is approved for sale by the federal bureau of alcohol, tobacco, firearms, and explosives under the "Gun Control Act of 1968," 82 Stat. 1213, 18 U.S.C. 921(a)(3), but that is found by the bureau not to be regulated under the "National Firearms Act," 68A Stat. 725 (1934), 26 U.S.C. 5845(a).

(G) "Zip-gun" means any of the following:

(1) Any firearm of crude and extemporized manufacture;

(2) Any device, including without limitation a starter's pistol, that is not designed as a firearm, but that is specially adapted for use as a firearm;

(3) Any industrial tool, signalling device, or safety device, that is not designed as a firearm, but that as designed is capable of use as such, when possessed, carried, or used as a firearm.

(H) "Explosive device" means any device designed or specially adapted to cause physical harm to persons or property by means of an explosion, and consisting of an explosive substance or agency and a means to detonate it. "Explosive device" includes without limitation any bomb, any explosive demolition device, any blasting cap or detonator containing an explosive charge, and any pressure vessel that has been knowingly tampered with or arranged so as to explode.

(I) "Incendiary device" means any firebomb, and any device designed or specially adapted to cause physical harm to persons

or property by means of fire, and consisting of an incendiary 78  
substance or agency and a means to ignite it. 79

(J) "Ballistic knife" means a knife with a detachable 80  
blade that is propelled by a spring-operated mechanism. 81

(K) "Dangerous ordnance" means any of the following, 82  
except as provided in division (L) of this section: 83

(1) Any automatic or sawed-off firearm, zip-gun, or 84  
ballistic knife; 85

(2) Any explosive device or incendiary device; 86

(3) Nitroglycerin, nitrocellulose, nitrostarch, PETN, 87  
cyclonite, TNT, picric acid, and other high explosives; amatol, 88  
tritonite, tetrytol, pentolite, pectretol, cyclitol, and other 89  
high explosive compositions; plastic explosives; dynamite, 90  
blasting gelatin, gelatin dynamite, sensitized ammonium nitrate, 91  
liquid-oxygen blasting explosives, blasting powder, and other 92  
blasting agents; and any other explosive substance having 93  
sufficient brisance or power to be particularly suitable for use 94  
as a military explosive, or for use in mining, quarrying, 95  
excavating, or demolitions; 96

(4) Any firearm, rocket launcher, mortar, artillery piece, 97  
grenade, mine, bomb, torpedo, or similar weapon, designed and 98  
manufactured for military purposes, and the ammunition for that 99  
weapon; 100

~~(5) Any firearm muffler or suppressor;~~ 101

~~(6) Any combination of parts that is intended by the owner 102  
for use in converting any firearm or other device into a 103  
dangerous ordnance. 104~~

(L) "Dangerous ordnance" does not include any of the 105

following: 106

(1) Any firearm, including a military weapon and the 107  
ammunition for that weapon, and regardless of its actual age, 108  
that employs a percussion cap or other obsolete ignition system, 109  
or that is designed and safe for use only with black powder; 110

(2) Any pistol, rifle, or shotgun, designed or suitable 111  
for sporting purposes, including a military weapon as issued or 112  
as modified, and the ammunition for that weapon, unless the 113  
firearm is an automatic or sawed-off firearm; 114

(3) Any cannon or other artillery piece that, regardless 115  
of its actual age, is of a type in accepted use prior to 1887, 116  
has no mechanical, hydraulic, pneumatic, or other system for 117  
absorbing recoil and returning the tube into battery without 118  
displacing the carriage, and is designed and safe for use only 119  
with black powder; 120

(4) Black powder, priming quills, and percussion caps 121  
possessed and lawfully used to fire a cannon of a type defined 122  
in division (L) (3) of this section during displays, 123  
celebrations, organized matches or shoots, and target practice, 124  
and smokeless and black powder, primers, and percussion caps 125  
possessed and lawfully used as a propellant or ignition device 126  
in small-arms or small-arms ammunition; 127

(5) Dangerous ordnance that is inoperable or inert and 128  
cannot readily be rendered operable or activated, and that is 129  
kept as a trophy, souvenir, curio, or museum piece; 130

(6) Any device that is expressly excepted from the 131  
definition of a destructive device pursuant to the "Gun Control 132  
Act of 1968," 82 Stat. 1213, 18 U.S.C. 921(a) (4), as amended, 133  
and regulations issued under that act; 134

(7) Any firearm with an overall length of at least twenty- 135  
six inches that is approved for sale by the federal bureau of 136  
alcohol, tobacco, firearms, and explosives under the "Gun 137  
Control Act of 1968," 82 Stat. 1213, 18 U.S.C. 921(a)(3), but 138  
that is found by the bureau not to be regulated under the 139  
"National Firearms Act," 68A Stat. 725 (1934), 26 U.S.C. 140  
5845(a). 141

(M) "Explosive" means any chemical compound, mixture, or 142  
device, the primary or common purpose of which is to function by 143  
explosion. "Explosive" includes all materials that have been 144  
classified as division 1.1, division 1.2, division 1.3, or 145  
division 1.4 explosives by the United States department of 146  
transportation in its regulations and includes, but is not 147  
limited to, dynamite, black powder, pellet powders, initiating 148  
explosives, blasting caps, electric blasting caps, safety fuses, 149  
fuse igniters, squibs, cordeau detonant fuses, instantaneous 150  
fuses, and igniter cords and igniters. "Explosive" does not 151  
include "fireworks," as defined in section 3743.01 of the 152  
Revised Code, or any substance or material otherwise meeting the 153  
definition of explosive set forth in this section that is 154  
manufactured, sold, possessed, transported, stored, or used in 155  
any activity described in section 3743.80 of the Revised Code, 156  
provided the activity is conducted in accordance with all 157  
applicable laws, rules, and regulations, including, but not 158  
limited to, the provisions of section 3743.80 of the Revised 159  
Code and the rules of the fire marshal adopted pursuant to 160  
section 3737.82 of the Revised Code. 161

(N) (1) "Concealed handgun license" or "license to carry a 162  
concealed handgun" means, subject to division (N) (2) of this 163  
section, a license or temporary emergency license to carry a 164  
concealed handgun issued under section 2923.125 or 2923.1213 of 165

the Revised Code or a license to carry a concealed handgun 166  
issued by another state with which the attorney general has 167  
entered into a reciprocity agreement under section 109.69 of the 168  
Revised Code. 169

(2) A reference in any provision of the Revised Code to a 170  
concealed handgun license issued under section 2923.125 of the 171  
Revised Code or a license to carry a concealed handgun issued 172  
under section 2923.125 of the Revised Code means only a license 173  
of the type that is specified in that section. A reference in 174  
any provision of the Revised Code to a concealed handgun license 175  
issued under section 2923.1213 of the Revised Code, a license to 176  
carry a concealed handgun issued under section 2923.1213 of the 177  
Revised Code, or a license to carry a concealed handgun on a 178  
temporary emergency basis means only a license of the type that 179  
is specified in section 2923.1213 of the Revised Code. A 180  
reference in any provision of the Revised Code to a concealed 181  
handgun license issued by another state or a license to carry a 182  
concealed handgun issued by another state means only a license 183  
issued by another state with which the attorney general has 184  
entered into a reciprocity agreement under section 109.69 of the 185  
Revised Code. 186

(O) "Valid concealed handgun license" or "valid license to 187  
carry a concealed handgun" means a concealed handgun license 188  
that is currently valid, that is not under a suspension under 189  
division (A)(1) of section 2923.128 of the Revised Code, under 190  
section 2923.1213 of the Revised Code, or under a suspension 191  
provision of the state other than this state in which the 192  
license was issued, and that has not been revoked under division 193  
(B)(1) of section 2923.128 of the Revised Code, under section 194  
2923.1213 of the Revised Code, or under a revocation provision 195  
of the state other than this state in which the license was 196

issued. 197

(P) "Misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for a term 198  
exceeding one year" does not include any of the following: 199

(1) Any federal or state offense pertaining to antitrust 200  
violations, unfair trade practices, restraints of trade, or 201  
other similar offenses relating to the regulation of business 202  
practices; 203

(2) Any misdemeanor offense punishable by a term of 204  
imprisonment of two years or less. 205

(Q) "Alien registration number" means the number issued by 206  
the United States citizenship and immigration services agency 207  
that is located on the alien's permanent resident card and may 208  
also be commonly referred to as the "USCIS number" or the "alien 209  
number." 210

(R) "Active duty" has the same meaning as defined in 10 211  
U.S.C. 101. 212

**Sec. 2923.17.** (A) No person shall knowingly acquire, have, 213  
carry, or use any dangerous ordnance. 214

(B) No person shall manufacture or process an explosive at 215  
any location in this state unless the person first has been 216  
issued a license, certificate of registration, or permit to do 217  
so from a fire official of a political subdivision of this state 218  
or from the office of the fire marshal. 219

(C) Division (A) of this section does not apply to: 220

(1) Officers, agents, or employees of this or any other 221  
state or the United States, members of the armed forces of the 222  
United States or the organized militia of this or any other 223  
state, and law enforcement officers, to the extent that any such 224



person is authorized to acquire, have, carry, or use dangerous 225  
ordnance and is acting within the scope of the person's duties; 226

(2) Importers, manufacturers, dealers, and users of 227  
explosives, having a license or user permit issued and in effect 228  
pursuant to the "Organized Crime Control Act of 1970," 84 Stat. 229  
952, 18 U.S.C. 843, and any amendments or additions thereto or 230  
reenactments thereof, with respect to explosives and explosive 231  
devices lawfully acquired, possessed, carried, or used under the 232  
laws of this state and applicable federal law; 233

(3) Importers, manufacturers, and dealers having a license 234  
to deal in destructive devices or their ammunition, issued and 235  
in effect pursuant to the "Gun Control Act of 1968," 82 Stat. 236  
1213, 18 U.S.C. 923, and any amendments or additions thereto or 237  
reenactments thereof, with respect to dangerous ordnance 238  
lawfully acquired, possessed, carried, or used under the laws of 239  
this state and applicable federal law; 240

(4) Persons to whom surplus ordnance has been sold, 241  
loaned, or given by the secretary of the army pursuant to 70A 242  
Stat. 262 and 263, 10 U.S.C. 4684, 4685, and 4686, and any 243  
amendments or additions thereto or reenactments thereof, with 244  
respect to dangerous ordnance when lawfully possessed and used 245  
for the purposes specified in such section; 246

(5) Owners of dangerous ordnance registered in the 247  
national firearms registration and transfer record pursuant to 248  
the act of October 22, 1968, 82 Stat. 1229, 26 U.S.C. 5841, and 249  
any amendments or additions thereto or reenactments thereof, and 250  
regulations issued thereunder; 251

(6) Carriers, warehouses, and others engaged in the 252  
business of transporting or storing goods for hire, with respect 253

to dangerous ordnance lawfully transported or stored in the 254  
usual course of their business and in compliance with the laws 255  
of this state and applicable federal law; 256

(7) The holders of a license or temporary permit issued 257  
and in effect pursuant to section 2923.18 of the Revised Code, 258  
with respect to dangerous ordnance lawfully acquired, possessed, 259  
carried, or used for the purposes and in the manner specified in 260  
such license or permit; 261

~~(8) Persons who own a dangerous ordnance that is a firearm 262~~  
~~muffler or suppressor attached to a gun that is authorized to be 263~~  
~~used for hunting by section 1533.16 of the Revised Code and who 264~~  
~~are authorized to use such a dangerous ordnance by section 265~~  
~~1533.04 of the Revised Code. 266~~

(D) Whoever violates division (A) of this section is 267  
guilty of unlawful possession of dangerous ordnance, a felony of 268  
the fifth degree. 269

(E) Whoever violates division (B) of this section is 270  
guilty of illegally manufacturing or processing explosives, a 271  
felony of the second degree. 272

**Section 2.** That existing sections 1533.04, 2923.11, and 273  
2923.17 of the Revised Code are hereby repealed. 274