

1 State of Arkansas  
2 93rd General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2021

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1957

4  
5 By: Representatives Wardlaw, Shepherd, Dalby, Eubanks, Warren, L. Fite, Wing, Payton, Speaks, Haak,  
6 Bryant, Rye, Tollett, Christiansen, Brooks, Lundstrum, Coleman  
7 By: Senators Irvin, Hickey, J. Dismang, B. Sample

## For An Act To Be Entitled

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10 AN ACT CONCERNING THE ENFORCEMENT OF FEDERAL FIREARM  
11 BANS WITHIN THE STATE OF ARKANSAS; CONCERNING STATE  
12 CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

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15 CONCERNING THE ENFORCEMENT OF FEDERAL  
16 FIREARM BANS WITHIN THE STATE OF  
17 ARKANSAS; AND CONCERNING STATE  
18 CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS.

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22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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24 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 1, is amended to add an additional  
25 chapter to read as follows:

### CHAPTER 6

### ARKANSAS SOVEREIGNTY ACT OF 2021

#### 1-6-101. Title.

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30 This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Arkansas  
31 Sovereignty Act of 2021".

#### 1-6-102. Legislative findings.

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34 The General Assembly finds that:

35 (1) The State of Arkansas is firmly resolved to support and  
36 defend the United States Constitution against every aggression, either



1 foreign or domestic, and the General Assembly is duty bound to watch over and  
2 oppose every infraction of those principles that constitute the basis of the  
3 United States because only a faithful observance of those principles can  
4 secure the nation's existence and the public happiness;

5 (2) Acting through the United States Constitution, the people of  
6 the several states created the United States Government to be their agent in  
7 the exercise of a few defined powers, while reserving to the state  
8 governments the power to legislate on matters that concern the lives,  
9 liberties, and properties of citizens in the ordinary course of affairs;

10 (3) The limitation of the United States Government's power is  
11 affirmed under the Tenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, which  
12 defines the total scope of federal power as being that which has been  
13 delegated by the people of the several states to the United States  
14 Government, and all power not delegated to the United States Government in  
15 the United States Constitution is reserved to the states respectively, or to  
16 the people themselves;

17 (4) Whenever the United States Government assumes powers that  
18 the people did not grant it in the United States Constitution, its acts are  
19 unauthoritative, void, and of no force;

20 (5)(A) The several states of the United States are not united on  
21 the principle of unlimited submission to the United States Government.

22 (B) The United States Government created by the United  
23 States Constitution is not the exclusive or final judge of the extent of the  
24 powers granted to it by the United States Constitution, because that would  
25 have made the United States Government's discretion, and not the United  
26 States Constitution, the measure of those powers.

27 (C) To the contrary, as in all other cases of compacts  
28 among powers having no common judge, each party has an equal right to judge  
29 itself, as well as infractions and the mode and measure of redress.

30 (D)(i) Although the several states have granted supremacy  
31 to laws and treaties made under the powers granted in the United States  
32 Constitution, such supremacy does not apply to various federal statutes,  
33 orders, rules, regulations, or other actions that restrict or prohibit the  
34 manufacture, ownership, and use of firearms, firearm accessories, or  
35 ammunition exclusively within the borders of Arkansas.

36 (ii) Such statutes, orders, rules, regulations, and

1 other actions exceed the powers granted to the United States Government  
2 except to the extent that they are necessary and proper for the United States  
3 Government and regulation of the land and naval forces of the United States  
4 Armed Forces or for the organizing, arming, and disciplining of militia  
5 forces actively employed in the service of the United States Armed Forces;

6 (6) The people of the several states have given the United  
7 States Congress the power "to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and  
8 among the several states, and with the Indian tribes", but regulating  
9 commerce does not include the power to limit citizens' right to keep and bear  
10 arms in defense of their families, neighbors, persons, or property or to  
11 dictate what sort of arms and accessories law-abiding, mentally competent  
12 Arkansas citizens may buy, sell, exchange, or otherwise possess within the  
13 borders of this state;

14 (7)(A) The people of the several states have also given the  
15 United States Congress the power "to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts  
16 and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general  
17 welfare of the United States" and "to make all laws which shall be necessary  
18 and proper for carrying into execution ... the powers vested by this  
19 Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any department or  
20 officer thereof".

21 (B)(i) These federal constitutional provisions merely  
22 identify the means by which the United States Government may execute its  
23 limited powers and ought not to be so construed as themselves to give  
24 unlimited powers because to do so would be to destroy the balance of power  
25 between the United States Government and the state governments.

26 (ii) The General Assembly denies any claim that the  
27 taxing and spending powers of the United States Congress can be used to  
28 diminish in any way the people's right to keep and bear arms; and

29 (8) The people of Arkansas have vested the General Assembly with  
30 the authority to regulate the manufacture, possession, exchange, and use of  
31 firearms within this state's borders, subject only to the limits imposed by  
32 the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution and Arkansas  
33 Constitution, Article 2, § 5.

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35 1-6-103. Definitions.

36 As used in this chapter:

1           (1) "Federal ban" means a federal law, executive order, rule, or  
2 regulation that is enacted, adopted, or becomes effective on or after January  
3 1, 2021, that infringes upon, calls into question, or prohibits, restricts,  
4 or requires individual licensure for or registration of the purchase,  
5 ownership, possession, transfer, or use of any firearm, any magazine or other  
6 ammunition feeding device, or other firearm accessory; and

7           (2) "Firearm" means a self-loading rifle, pistol, revolver, or  
8 shotgun or any manually loaded rifle, pistol, revolver, or shotgun.

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10       1-6-104. Firearm rights.

11       (a) All acts, laws, orders, rules, and regulations of the United  
12 States Government that were enacted on or after January 1, 2021, that  
13 infringe on the people's right to keep and bear arms as guaranteed by the  
14 Second Amendment to the United States Constitution and Arkansas Constitution,  
15 Article 2, § 5, are invalid in this state, shall not be recognized by this  
16 state, are specifically rejected by this state, and shall be considered null  
17 and void and of no effect in this state.

18       (b) Such a federal ban that is null and void in this state under  
19 subsection (a) of this section includes without limitation:

20           (1) Any tax, levy, fee, or stamp imposed on firearms, firearm  
21 accessories, or ammunition not common to all other goods and services that  
22 could have a chilling effect on the purchase or ownership of those items by  
23 law-abiding citizens that was enacted after January 1, 2021;

24           (2) Any registering or tracking of firearms, firearm  
25 accessories, or ammunition that could have a chilling effect on the purchase  
26 or ownership of those items by law-abiding citizens;

27           (3) Any registering or tracking of the owners of firearms,  
28 firearm accessories, or ammunition that could have a chilling effect on the  
29 purchase or ownership of those items by law-abiding citizens;

30           (4) Any act forbidding the possession, ownership, use, or  
31 transfer of any type of firearm, firearm accessory, or ammunition by law-  
32 abiding citizens; and

33           (5) Any act ordering the confiscation of firearms, firearm  
34 accessories, or ammunition from law-abiding citizens.

35       (c)(1) The following persons shall not enforce or assist federal  
36 agencies or officers in the enforcement of any federal statute, executive

1 order, or federal agency directive that conflicts with Arkansas Constitution,  
2 Article 2, § 5, or any Arkansas law:

3 (A) A public officer or employee of this state; or

4 (B) A representative, agent, or employee of a  
5 municipality, a county, or the state, acting under the color of law, with all  
6 the rights, grants, and assignments of a law enforcement officer in the  
7 state.

8 (2) The persons and prohibitions described under subdivision  
9 (c)(1) of this section include personnel, agents of the state or local  
10 government, including volunteers, the use of tax dollars, and persons having  
11 authority to enforce or attempt to enforce any of the infringements on the  
12 right to keep and bear arms described under subsection (b) of this section.

13 (d) An elected official who knowingly directs any law enforcement  
14 officer to assist a federal law enforcement agency in violating the rights of  
15 a person as described under subsection (c) of this section upon conviction is  
16 guilty of an unclassified misdemeanor.

17 (e) A law enforcement officer not described under subdivision (d) of  
18 this section who knowingly assists a federal law enforcement agency in  
19 violating the rights of a person as described under subsection (c) of this  
20 section is subject to being decertified as a law enforcement officer.

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22 1-6-105. Enumerated rights.

23 (a) All federal acts, laws, orders, rules, and regulations that were  
24 enacted on or after January 1, 2021, that infringe on the enumerated rights  
25 under Arkansas Constitution, Article 2, are invalid in this state, shall not  
26 be recognized by this state, are specifically rejected by this state, and  
27 shall be considered null and void and of no effect in this state.

28 (b)(1) The following persons shall not enforce or assist federal  
29 agencies or officers in the enforcement of any federal statute, executive  
30 order, or federal agency directive that conflicts with Arkansas Constitution,  
31 Article 2, § 5, or any Arkansas law:

32 (A) A public officer or employee of this state; or

33 (B) A representative, agent, or employee of a  
34 municipality, a county, or the state, acting under the color of law, with all  
35 the rights, grants, and assignments of a law enforcement officer in the  
36 state.

1           (2) The persons and prohibitions described under subdivision  
 2 (b)(1) of this section include personnel, agents of the state or local  
 3 government, including volunteers, the use of tax dollars, and persons having  
 4 authority to enforce or attempt to enforce any of the infringements on the  
 5 rights described under subsection (a) of this section.

6           (c) An elected official who knowingly directs any law enforcement  
 7 officer to assist a federal law enforcement agency in violating the rights  
 8 described under subsection (a) of this section upon conviction is guilty of  
 9 an unclassified misdemeanor.

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 11           1-6-106. Exceptions.

12           This chapter shall not be construed to prohibit or otherwise limit a  
 13 state law enforcement officer, state employee, or employee of a political  
 14 subdivision of the state from cooperating, communicating, or collaborating  
 15 with a federal agency if the primary purpose is not:

16                   (1) Law enforcement activity related to a federal ban; or

17                   (2) The investigation of a violation of a federal ban.