

**As Introduced**

**134th General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2021-2022**

**S. B. No. 293**

**Senators Gavarone, Johnson**

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**A BILL**

To amend section 9.68 of the Revised Code to 1  
prohibit requiring fees or firearms liability 2  
insurance for the possession of firearms. 3

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

**Section 1.** That section 9.68 of the Revised Code be 4  
amended to read as follows: 5

**Sec. 9.68.** (A) The individual right to keep and bear arms, 6  
being a fundamental individual right that predates the United 7  
States Constitution and Ohio Constitution, and being a 8  
constitutionally protected right in every part of Ohio, the 9  
general assembly finds the need to provide uniform laws 10  
throughout the state regulating the ownership, possession, 11  
purchase, other acquisition, transport, storage, carrying, sale, 12  
other transfer, manufacture, taxation, keeping, and reporting of 13  
loss or theft of firearms, their components, and their 14  
ammunition. The general assembly also finds and declares that it 15  
is proper for law-abiding people to protect themselves, their 16  
families, and others from intruders and attackers without fear 17  
of prosecution or civil action for acting in defense of 18  
themselves or others. Except as specifically provided by the 19

United States Constitution, Ohio Constitution, state law, or 20  
federal law, a person, without further license, permission, 21  
restriction, delay, or process, including by any ordinance, 22  
rule, regulation, resolution, practice, or other action or any 23  
threat of citation, prosecution, or other legal process, may 24  
own, possess, purchase, acquire, transport, store, carry, sell, 25  
transfer, manufacture, or keep any firearm, part of a firearm, 26  
its components, and its ammunition, without being required to 27  
have firearm liability insurance or pay a fee for the possession 28  
of the firearm, parts, components, or ammunition. Any such 29  
further license, permission, restriction, delay, or process 30  
interferes with the fundamental individual right described in 31  
this division and unduly inhibits law-abiding people from 32  
protecting themselves, their families, and others from intruders 33  
and attackers and from other legitimate uses of constitutionally 34  
protected firearms, including hunting and sporting activities, 35  
and the state by this section preempts, supersedes, and declares 36  
null and void any such further license, permission, restriction, 37  
delay, or process. 38

(B) A person, group, or entity adversely affected by any 39  
manner of ordinance, rule, regulation, resolution, practice, or 40  
other action enacted or enforced by a political subdivision in 41  
conflict with division (A) of this section may bring a civil 42  
action against the political subdivision seeking damages from 43  
the political subdivision, declaratory relief, injunctive 44  
relief, or a combination of those remedies. Any damages awarded 45  
shall be awarded against, and paid by, the political 46  
subdivision. In addition to any actual damages awarded against 47  
the political subdivision and other relief provided with respect 48  
to such an action, the court shall award reasonable expenses to 49  
any person, group, or entity that brings the action, to be paid 50

by the political subdivision, if either of the following 51  
applies: 52

(1) The person, group, or entity prevails in a challenge 53  
to the ordinance, rule, regulation, resolution, practice, or 54  
action as being in conflict with division (A) of this section. 55

(2) The ordinance, rule, regulation, resolution, practice, 56  
or action or the manner of its enforcement is repealed or 57  
rescinded after the civil action was filed but prior to a final 58  
court determination of the action. 59

(C) As used in this section: 60

(1) The possession, transporting, or carrying of firearms, 61  
their components, or their ammunition include, but are not 62  
limited to, the possession, transporting, or carrying, openly or 63  
concealed on a person's person or concealed ready at hand, of 64  
firearms, their components, or their ammunition. 65

(2) "Firearm" has the same meaning as in section 2923.11 66  
of the Revised Code. 67

(3) "Reasonable expenses" include, but are not limited to, 68  
reasonable attorney's fees, court costs, expert witness fees, 69  
and compensation for loss of income. 70

(4) "Firearm liability insurance" means a policy of 71  
liability insurance covering losses resulting from the use of a 72  
firearm owned by the person covered by the policy. 73

(D) This section does not apply to either of the 74  
following: 75

(1) A zoning ordinance that regulates or prohibits the 76  
commercial sale of firearms, firearm components, or ammunition 77  
for firearms in areas zoned for residential or agricultural 78

uses;	79
(2) A zoning ordinance that specifies the hours of operation or the geographic areas where the commercial sale of firearms, firearm components, or ammunition for firearms may occur, provided that the zoning ordinance is consistent with zoning ordinances for other retail establishments in the same geographic area and does not result in a de facto prohibition of the commercial sale of firearms, firearm components, or ammunition for firearms in areas zoned for commercial, retail, or industrial uses.	80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88
<b>Section 2.</b> That existing section 9.68 of the Revised Code is hereby repealed.	89 90