



# OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

## NEWS RELEASE

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### FLORIO SIGNS NATION'S TOUGHEST ASSAULT WEAPON LAW

PATERSON -- Keeping a promise made during the campaign, Governor Jim Florio today signed a bill banning the sale and sharply restricting current possession of assault weapons in New Jersey, making it the toughest law in the nation.

Florio signed the bill during a ceremony in Paterson, the home of the late state Senator Frank Graves, the bill's original sponsor.

"One of our most basic rights is to be safe. But when the police are outgunned and innocent people can be gunned down in vast numbers, all of our other rights become meaningless," Governor Florio said. "I promised that I would ban assault weapons in New Jersey and I am proud to sign this bill into law today. It's the toughest law in the nation. It's right. It's fair, and it will make New Jersey a better place."

Under the law, no person will be able to legally purchase an assault weapon in the state. Unlike a California assault weapon ban, which exempts all current owners, the New Jersey law severely restricts possession of any assault weapon not used for legitimate collecting or target-shooting purposes.

"This is a common sense bill -- one that recognized that hunters don't need Uzis to shred their prey, and law abiding citizens don't need 'street-sweepers'," Florio said. "The ban on military-style assault weapons was Frank Graves' last fight. He believed, as I do, that guns capable of wholesale destruction are a direct threat to our police, our citizens and especially our children."

Current owners have one year to either sell their weapon or render it inoperable by certifying that the parts necessary to fire the weapon have been removed from his immediate possession, making it purely a collector's piece. Owners also have seven months to join a chartered rifle/pistol club, but may do so only if their firearm was purchased as of May 1, 1990, and is included on a list

currently being drawn up by the Attorney General based on those weapons used in U.S. Army-sanctioned competitions.

"This bill says that no one can walk off the street and purchase a gun that is designed to wipe out the greatest number of people in the shortest possible time," Florio said. "I call that common sense. So do the majority of people in New Jersey and so does the State Legislature."

# # #

## **NEW JERSEY ASSAULT FIREARMS BILL Fact Sheet**

The signing of the New Jersey Assault Firearms Bill will give New Jersey the toughest assault weapon control law in the country. It imposes a strict ban on the sale and ownership of a wide range of semiautomatic weapons by amending the state's current Criminal Code to regulate the use, possession and transfer of assault firearms.

The New Jersey statute will be the toughest law in the nation because unlike the California ban, it does not exempt all current owners.

- A current owner of an assault firearm who wishes to keep a weapon has several options: registration, rendering inoperable and licensing.

### **Registration**

Only certain specific types of assault weapons can be registered. Within 90 days the Attorney General will publish a list of assault weapons which are used for legitimate target-shooting purposes. The list must include any assault weapon used in U.S. Army sanctioned competitions.

\*A person who owned such a weapon prior to May 1, 1990 has one year from the signing of the bill to register the weapon.

\*The owner must fill out a registration form, pay a one-time registration fee of \$50 per weapon.

\*The owner must submit proof that he or she is a member of a rifle or pistol club which was in existence before the signing of this bill and which had filed its club charter with the State Police.

\*The owner must produce a valid firearms purchasers' identification card or handgun permit.

\*Any club which has not already filed its charter has six months in which to do so. Any person who is not already a member of a chartered club has seven months to join one.

\*In cases where a crime is committed with a registered assault firearm, the registrant is strictly civilly liable for any damages resulting from that crime. This penalty does not apply if the weapon was stolen and the theft reported within 24 hours.

\*When a registrant of an assault weapon dies, his or her heirs or estate have 90 days to legally transfer, voluntarily surrender or render inoperable all registered assault firearms.

### Rendering Inoperable

Owners of assault firearms who choose not to register their firearms have one year to either lawfully transfer the weapon, voluntarily surrender it or render it inoperable. "Inoperable" means that the firearm is altered so that it cannot immediately be fired and that the owner does not possess or have control of the parts necessary to make it operable.

The owner must certify to local or State Police that he or she has rendered an assault weapon inoperable and the date on which it was done. No fee is required and there are no restrictions on passing the weapon on to heirs except that it must remain inoperable. Additionally, the owner is not strictly liable for damages caused by the weapon.

A weapon may be rendered inoperable by removing the firing pin.

- Voluntary surrender: A person may inform local or State Police of their intention to surrender a weapon and establish a time to do so.

Lawful transfer: Anyone wishing to transfer a weapon has one year from the signing of this bill to lawfully do so.

### Licensing

The same provisions apply for licensing assault weapons as apply for machine guns. Since no licenses have been issued in this state to possess and carry a machine gun, it is expected that no licenses will be granted for assault firearms. The only exception has been for temporary permits for movie production companies.

### Penalties

The sentencing provisions of the Criminal Code have been amended to provide for mandatory minimum terms of parole ineligibility for persons who commit certain crimes with an assault firearm. It extends incarceration periods for those convicted of certain crimes while possessing an assault weapon if they have previously been convicted of another crime involving any type of gun.

- \*10-20 years for crimes of the first degree
- \*5-10 years for crimes of the second degree
- \*3-5 years for crimes of the third degree
- \*up to 18 months for crimes of the fourth degree

### Assault Weapon Ban

A full list of the firearms banned under this legislation is attached.

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## NEW JERSEY ASSAULT WEAPON BAN

Firearms banned under this legislation include:

- . Algimec AGM 1 type
- . Any shotgun with a revolving cylinder, such as the "Street Sweeper" or "Striker 12"
- . Armalite AR-180 types
- . Australian Automatic Arms SAR
- . Avtomat Kalashnikov type semiautomatic firearms
- . Beretta AR-70 and BM59 semiautomatic firearms
- . Bushmaster Assault rifle
- . Calico M-900 Assault carbine and M-900
- . CETME G3
- . Chartered Industries of Singapore SR-88 type
- . Colt AR-15 and CAR-15 series
- . Daewoo K-1, K-2, Max 1 and Max 2, AR 100 types
- . Demro TAC-1 carbine types
- . Encom MP-9 and MP-45 carbine types
- . FAMAS MAS223 types
- . FN-FAL, FN-LAR or FN-FNC type semiautomatic firearms
- . Franchi SPAS 12 and LAW 12 shotguns
- . G3SA type
- . Galil type
- . Heckler and Koch HK91, HK93, HK94, MP5, PSG-1
- . Intratec TEC9 and 22 semiautomatic firearms
- . M1 carbine type
- . M14S type
- . MAC 10, MAC11, MAC11 9-mm carbine type firearm
- . PJK M-68 carbine type
- . Plainfield Machine Company carbine
- . Ruger K-Mini 14/5F and Mini-14 5RF
- . SIG AMT, SIG 550SP, SIG 551SP, SIG PE-57 types
- . SKS with detachable magazine type
- . Spectre Auto carbine type
- . Springfield Armory BM59 and SAR 48 type
- . Sterling MK-6, MK-7 and SAR types
- . Steyr A.U.G. semiautomatic firearms
- . USAS 12 semiautomatic type shotgun
- . Uzi type semiautomatic firearms
- . Valmet M62, M71S, M76 or M78 type semiautomatic firearms
- . Weaver Arm Nighthawk

REMARKS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY BY GOVERNOR JIM FLORIO  
ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN BILL SIGNING  
PATERSON, NEW JERSEY  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 30, 1990

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A FEW MONTHS AGO, I PLANNED TO STAND ON THIS SPOT IN PATERSON WITH FRANK GRAVES. TOGETHER, WITH ASSEMBLYMAN JOE MECCA, WE WERE GOING TO FIGHT FOR SOMETHING THAT WAS RIGHT.

THAT'S WHAT FRANK GRAVES WAS ALL ABOUT -- STANDING UP FOR WHAT WAS RIGHT AND FOR WHAT HE BELIEVED IN. HE DID IT IN HIS HOME TOWN OF PATERSON, HE DID IT IN THE NEW JERSEY SENATE.

BUT TWO DAYS BEFORE I WAS SUPPOSED TO COME UP HERE, FRANK GRAVES DIED. NEW JERSEY LOST ONE OF ITS BEST FRIENDS, AND HIS FAMILY LOST A LOVING HUSBAND AND FATHER.

WHEN HIS COLLEAGUES AND HIS FRIENDS GATHERED TO PAY THEIR RESPECTS, A COMMON THEME RAN THROUGH THE WORDS THAT WERE SPOKEN: HE WOULD BE MISSED, AND HE MADE A DIFFERENCE.

FRANK GRAVES LOVED THIS STATE. HE LOVED ITS PEOPLE. AND HE WAGED A ONE-MAN WAR AGAINST THOSE WHO WOULD HURT THEM THROUGH THE VIOLENCE OF CRIME.

HE FOUGHT BACK WITH THE LAW, AND HE WROTE SOME TOUGH ONES. THE LAWS THAT BEAR HIS NAME ARE A MONUMENT TO A PUBLIC LIFE WORTH REMEMBERING.

I'M PROUD TO BE HERE AND SIGN ONE OF THOSE LAWS.

THE BAN ON MILITARY-STYLE ASSAULT WEAPONS WAS FRANK GRAVES' LAST FIGHT. HE BELIEVED -- AS I DO -- THAT BATTLEFIELD WEAPONS HAD NO PLACE ON OUR STREETS OR IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS.

HE BELIEVED -- AS I DO -- THAT GUNS CAPABLE OF WHOLESALE DESTRUCTION ARE A DIRECT THREAT TO OUR POLICE, OUR CITIZENS AND ESPECIALLY OUR CHILDREN.

ONE OF OUR MOST BASIC RIGHTS IS TO BE SAFE. BUT WHEN THE POLICE ARE OUTGUNNED AND INNOCENT PEOPLE CAN BE GUNNED DOWN IN VAST NUMBERS, ALL OUR OTHER RIGHTS BECOME MEANINGLESS.

I PROMISED THAT I WOULD BAN ASSAULT WEAPONS IN NEW JERSEY, AND FRANK GRAVES WROTE THE BILL THAT WOULD DO IT.

IT WAS A COMMON SENSE BILL -- ONE THAT RECOGNIZED THAT HUNTERS DON'T NEED UZIS TO SHRED THEIR PREY, AND LAW ABIDING CITIZENS DON'T NEED "STREET SWEEPERS."

SOME PEOPLE DISAGREED. WE LISTENED TO THOSE WHO WERE REASONABLE; COMMONS SENSE PREVAILED OVER THOSE WHO WERE NOT.

WE MADE THIS BILL TOUGH -- AS TOUGH AS FRANK GRAVES -- AND WE MADE IT FAIR.

THIS BILL SAYS THAT NO ONE CAN WALK OFF THE STREET AND PURCHASE A GUN THAT IS DESIGNED TO WIPE OUT THE MOST AMOUNT OF PEOPLE IN THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME.

I CALL THAT COMMON SENSE. SO DO THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE IN NEW JERSEY, AND SO DOES THE STATE LEGISLATURE.

SO I'M PLEASED TO STAND HERE TODAY AND FINISH THE FIGHT FRANK GRAVES STARTED. AND I WANT TO THANK ASSEMBLYMAN MECCA AND SENATOR RUSSO, WHO STEPPED IN ON SHORT NOTICE FOR HIS COLLEAGUE AND VIGOROUSLY SUPPORTED THIS BILL IN THE SENATE, AND ALL THE LEGISLATORS WHO ACTED SO COURAGEOUSLY.

AND NOW, I'M GOING TO SIGN THIS BILL INTO LAW. IT'S THE TOUGHEST IN THE NATION. IT'S RIGHT, IT'S FAIR, AND IT WILL MAKE NEW JERSEY A BETTER PLACE.

I CAN THINK OF NO MORE FITTING TRIBUTE TO FRANK GRAVES.