

Protect Illinois Communities Act

⚠️ **THE PROBLEM** – Assault Weapons, High Capacity Magazines and Switches Are Fueling the Gun Violence Crisis

Assault weapons are designed for rapid and efficient attack and have transformed gun violence in our communities, making mass shootings more deadly and frequent.

High-capacity magazines are ammunition feeding devices that allow bad actors to fire multiple rounds in quick succession without taking the time to reload, increasing a shooter's ability to kill more people quickly and efficiently. Includes both detachable and fixed magazines.¹

Switches are attachments that convert legal handguns into military-style assault weapons.²

- 155% more people are shot and 47% more people are killed when assault weapons or high-capacity magazines are used
- From 2016 to 2018, assault weapons were responsible for the deaths of 1 in 5 law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty³
- Large-capacity magazines have been used in all ten of the deadliest mass shootings in the last decade.

✅ **THE SOLUTION** – The Protect Illinois Communities Act (PICA)

On January 10, 2023, Illinois became the 9th state to pass comprehensive legislation banning the sale and possession of assault weapons. The law imposes an immediate ban on the manufacturing and sale of assault weapons, high-capacity magazines, and switches in Illinois.⁴

Bans assault weapons

PICA imposed an immediate ban on the manufacturing and sale of assault weapons in Illinois.

The law also requires owners of existing semiautomatic rifles to register their weapons, enhancing law enforcement's ability to track these firearms, and limits their use to private property that is not open to the public and which the owner of the weapon either owns or controls, or has the owner's express permission to use.

Bans switches

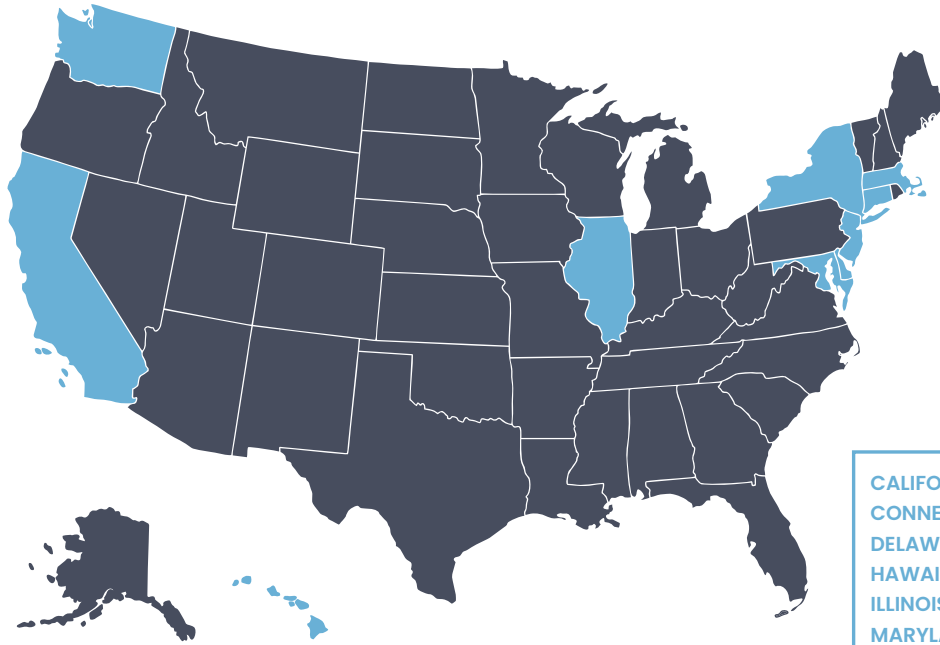
PICA bans switches in Illinois, making it illegal to knowingly manufacture, deliver, sell, import, purchase or to cause another person to manufacture, deliver, sell, import, or purchase switches.

Restricts sale of high-capacity magazines

PICA bans the sale of magazines that have more than 15 rounds of ammunition for handguns and more than 10 rounds of ammunition for a long gun.

- From 1994–2004 there was a federal ban on assault weapons, and during that decade, mass shooting fatalities were 70% less likely to occur compared to the periods before and after the ban.⁵
- Studies indicate that states with assault weapons bans prevent mass shootings.

WHERE ASSAULT WEAPONS ARE BANNED IN THE UNITED STATES



MORE ABOUT THE PROTECT ILLINOIS COMMUNITIES ACT:

Extends the use of firearm restraining orders, sometimes called Red Flag Laws

PICA extends the court's ability to use firearm restraining orders to prevent individuals who pose a risk to themselves or others from having access to firearms.

- Extends duration of a Firearm Restraining Order (FRO) from 6 months to one year. Gives states attorneys standing to assist in filing a FRO.
- Enacts Universal Background Checks for private gun sales starting July 1, 2023, ensuring background checks are completed for every gun sale in Illinois.
- Creates Illinois State Police anti-gun trafficking strike force

Sources

1 Illinois General Assembly, State of Illinois, "[Public Act 102-1116, 720 ILCS 5/24-1.9 \(3\)\(7\)\(6\)](#)."

2 Illinois General Assembly, State of Illinois, "[Public Act 102-1116, 720 ILCS 5/24-1.9 \(3\)](#)."

3 Violence Policy Center, "[New Data Shows One in Five Law Enforcement Officers Slain in the Line of Duty from 2016 to 2018 Were Felled by an Assault Weapon February 3, 2021](#)."

4-5 Giffords Law Center, "[Assault Weapons in Illinois, Updated January 3, 2023](#)."