

By Mr. McCann, a petition of Francis X. McCann for legislation to provide for an interstate compact on registration of firearms and establishing a central office for firearms registration. Public Safety.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty-Four.

**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR AN INTERSTATE COMPACT ON REGISTRATION OF FIREARMS AND ESTABLISHING A CENTRAL OFFICE FOR FIREARMS REGISTRATION.**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. The governor is hereby authorized and di-  
2 rected to execute a compact on behalf of the commonwealth  
3 with each of the other New England States joining therein  
4 in the form substantially as follows: —

5 INTERSTATE COMPACT ON FIREARMS REGISTRATION  
6 The contracting states solemnly agree:

7 *Article I. — Findings and Purposes.*

8 That the care with which firearms are obtainable, said fire-  
9 arms being readily available to all who have the purchase  
10 price, is not only of great assistance to the criminal element  
11 in carrying out their evil plans which result in an ever-  
12 increasing number of robberies and murders, but also enables  
13 them to evade conviction because of the difficulty in tracing  
14 ownership of firearms. The cooperation of the states party  
15 to this compact is therefore necessary for the welfare and  
16 protection of the public with respect to cooperative supervision  
17 of the sales of firearms, the identification of the purchaser  
18 or persons and the registration by each person who comes  
19 into possession of a person of such firearm. It shall be the  
20 policy of the state party to this compact to cooperate and

21 observe their respective responsibilities for the registration of  
22 every firearm sold to any person, with proper identification  
23 of the purchaser, and the registration of every firearm which  
24 comes into the possession of any person other than by pur-  
25 chase, and the keeping of proper records of such registration  
26 by each such state.

27 *Article II. — Definition.*

28 That, for the purpose of this compact, "firearms" means  
29 a pistol, revolver or other weapon of any description loaded  
30 or unloaded, from which a shot or bullet can be discharged  
31 and of which the length of the barrel not including any  
32 revolving, detachable or magazine breech is less than eighteen  
33 inches. "Firearms" shall also include a rifle, shotgun or  
34 machine-gun. A "machine-gun" is a weapon of any descrip-  
35 tion, by whatever means known, loaded or unloaded, from  
36 which a number of shots or bullets may be rapidly or auto-  
37 matically discharged by one continuous pull of the trigger,  
38 and includes a sub-machine-gun.

39 *Article III. — Central Firearms Registration Office.*

40 Each state party to this compact shall send a copy of each  
41 gun registration with the name of the owners and his address  
42 to a central firearms registration center to be established at  
43 such location in New England as the state party to said  
44 compact agree upon, which center shall be constructed and  
45 thereafter maintained by joint-action of the states signatory  
46 to this compact. The cost of the construction and maintenance  
47 of such firearm registration center shall be borne by the  
48 several states, according to the proportion of such cost to  
49 be paid by each state to be determined by vote of the states  
50 party to the compact.

51 *Article IV. — Acceptance of Federal and Other Aid.*

52 That any state party to this compact may accept any and  
53 all donations, gifts and grants of money, equipment and  
54 services from the federal or any local government, or any  
55 agency thereof and from any person, firm or corporation, for  
56 any of the purposes and functions of this compact, and may

57 receive and utilize the same subject to the terms, conditions  
58 and regulations governing such donations, gifts and grants.

59 *Article V. — Compact Administrators.*

60 That the governor of each state party to this compact  
61 shall designate an officer who, acting jointly with like officers  
62 of other party states, shall promulgate rules and regulations  
63 to carry out more effectively the terms and provisions of  
64 this compact.

65 *Article VI. — Execution of Compact.*

66 That this compact shall become operative immediately  
67 upon its execution by any state as between it and any other  
68 state or states so executing. When executed it shall have  
69 the full force and effect of the law within such state, the form  
70 of execution to be in accordance with the laws of the executing  
71 state.

72 *Article VII. — Renunciation.*

73 That this compact shall continue in force and remain  
74 binding upon each executing state until renounced by it.  
75 Renunciation of this compact shall be by the same authority  
76 which executed it, by sending six months' notice in writing  
77 of its intention to withdraw from the compact to the other  
78 states party hereto.

79 *Article VIII. — Severability.*

80 That the provisions of this compact shall be severable and  
81 if any phrase, clause, sentence or provision of this compact  
82 is declared to be contrary to the constitution of any partici-  
83 pating state or of the United States or the applicability thereof  
84 to any government, agency, person or circumstance is held  
85 invalid, the validity of the remainder of this compact and the  
86 applicability thereof to any government, agency, person or  
87 circumstance shall not be affected thereby. If this compact  
88 shall be held contrary to the constitution of any state partici-  
89 pating therein, the compact shall remain in full force and

90 effect as to the remaining states and in full force and effect  
91 as to the state affected as to all severable matters.

1 SECTION 2. Pursuant to said compact, the governor is  
2 hereby authorized and empowered to designate an officer who  
3 shall be the compact administrator and who, acting jointly  
4 with like officers of other party states, shall promulgate rules  
5 and regulations to carry out more effectively the terms of the  
6 compact. Said compact administrator shall serve subject to  
7 the pleasure of the governor. The compact administrator is  
8 hereby authorized, empowered and directed to co-operate with  
9 all departments, agencies and officers of and in the govern-  
10 ment of this state and its subdivisions in facilitating the proper  
11 administration of the compact or of any supplementary agree-  
12 ment or agreements entered into by this commonwealth there-  
13 under.

1 SECTION 3. The compact administrator is hereby author-  
2 ized and empowered to enter into supplementary agreements  
3 with appropriate officials of other states pursuant to the  
4 compact. In the event that such supplementary agreement  
5 shall require or contemplate the use of any facility of this state  
6 or require or contemplate the provision of any service by  
7 this state, said supplementary agreement shall have no force  
8 or effect until approved by the head of the department or  
9 agency under whose jurisdiction said facility is operated or  
10 whose department or agency will be charged with the render-  
11 ing of such service.

1 SECTION 4. The compact administrator, subject to the  
2 approval of the governor and council, may make or arrange  
3 for any payments necessary to discharge any financial obli-  
4 gations imposed upon this commonwealth by the compact or  
5 by any supplementary agreement entered into thereunder.

1 SECTION 5. Notwithstanding any provisions of any article  
2 of the compact, this act shall cease to be in effect upon the  
3 adoption by both branches of the general court of a joint  
4 resolution stating that it is no longer necessary for the public  
5 good.