

Testimony on S.1
Senate Judiciary - February 28th, 2019
Chris Bradley, President - Vermont Federation of Sportsman's Clubs

The Vermont Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs is in complete support of S.1, and we urge its passage with all due speed.

As originally written, 13 VSA §4021 (Large Capacity Ammunition Feeding Devices) made no exception for the fact that organizations like the Vermont State Rifle & Pistol Association (VSRPA) and many other clubs and organizations located in Vermont that annually run competitive shooting events, with these events attracting large numbers of competitors from out-of-state. When these competitors come, they bring the equipment that they usually use (such as standard capacity magazines that originally came with the rifle or pistol).

In the case of the VSRPA specifically, the VSRPA worked very hard to encourage the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP - www.odcmp.com) to establish Vermont as the site of the New England CMP Travel Games, an event that runs for a full week in September and which brings in quite literally hundreds of competitors from across the United States and even abroad.

Like other aspects of what became S.55, there was the appearance, that there was not enough time allotted to thoroughly and fully vet all aspects of the various sections, and one of these aspects was the fact that these competitions exist and that the competitors coming into Vermont represent significant revenue both to Vermont and for a wide variety of Vermont businesses.

As a matter of fact, it was at the 11th hour that the VTFSC, working with Anne Donahue, convinced the House Judiciary to add what became 13 VSA §4021(d)(1)(F) due to the negative impact it would have on upcoming competitions such as the New England CMP Travel Games and other matches around the state. I believe the record will show that when they accepted what became 13 VSA §4021(d) (1)(F), they did so by stating that they would allow this but put a sunset provision on this to allow for a more expansive discussion subsequently.

In all cases that the VTFSC is aware of, and especially with the matches run by a VSRPA, competitors register for matches before they travel, so that they know that they will be accommodated before they arrive. It is therefore fully possible for an out-of-state competitor who is somehow found with one or more "Large Capacity Ammunition Feeding Devices" in their possession while in the State of Vermont to both A) provide proof of their involvement in a scheduled competition, and B) provide a local contact of a Vermont organization such as the VSRPA to verify their scheduled involvement.

In summary, the VTFSC fully believes that it was never the intent of the Large Capacity Ammunition Feeding Device bill to stop or otherwise prevent out-of-state competitors from coming into the State of Vermont to compete in lawful sporting events. We therefore support S.1, and we respectfully ask the Senate Judiciary Committee to do likewise.