



SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

BILL FOR

ACT NO. OF 2023

I ASSENT

Governor-General

[ ]

AN ACT to amend the Firearms Act, Cap. 386.

THE PARLIAMENT of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines enacts as follows:

[ ]

Short title

1. This Act may be cited as the Firearms (Amendment) Act 2023.

Insertion of section 11A in Firearms Act, Cap. 386

2. After section 11 of the Firearms Act, referred to in this Act as the principal Act, the following section is inserted –

“Penalty for contravention of terms or conditions of licence or permit

11A. Without prejudice to any other provision in this Act, a person, who being the holder of a licence or permit, contravenes any of the terms or conditions of the licence or permit, commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding two thousand dollars or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months, or both.”.

Amendment of section 14 of principal Act

3. Section 14 (4) of the principal Act is amended –

(a) in paragraph (a), by deleting –

- (i) “ten years” and inserting “fifteen years”; and
- (ii) “twenty years” and inserting “twenty-five years”;

(b) in paragraph (b) (i), by deleting –

- (i) “ten thousand dollars” and inserting “fifty thousand dollars”; and
- (ii) “five years” and inserting “ten years”;

(c) in paragraph (b) (ii), by deleting –

- (i) “twenty-five thousand dollars” and inserting “seventy-five thousand dollars”; and
- (ii) “fifteen years” and inserting “twenty years”.

(d) in paragraph (c) (i), by deleting –

- (i) “twenty thousand dollars” and inserting “twenty-five thousand dollars”; and
- (ii) “seven years” and inserting “ten years”;

- (e) in paragraph (c) (ii), by deleting –
  - (i) “twenty thousand dollars” and inserting “fifty thousand dollars”; and
  - (ii) “ten years” and inserting “fifteen years”.

Amendment of section 18 of principal Act

- 4. Section 18 of the principal Act is amended –
  - (a) in paragraph (a) –
    - (i) by deleting “ten thousand dollars” and inserting “fifteen thousand dollars”; and
    - (ii) by deleting “five years” and inserting “seven years”;
  - (b) in paragraph (b) –
    - (i) by deleting “thirty thousand dollars” and inserting “thirty-five thousand dollars”; and
    - (ii) by deleting “twenty years” and inserting “twenty-two years”.

Amendment of section 19 of principal Act

- 5. Section 19 (2) of the principal Act is amended –
  - (a) in paragraph (a), by deleting “five years” and inserting “seven years”; and
  - (b) in paragraph (b), by deleting “twenty-five years” and inserting “thirty years”.

Insertion of section 19A to 19B in principal Act

- 6. After section 19 of the principal Act and in Part III, the following sections are inserted –

**“Possession of ghost gun or 3D printed firearm**

19A. (1) A person shall not manufacture, sell, transfer, purchase or possess a ghost gun or a firearm produced by a 3D printing process.

(2) A person who contravenes subsection (1) commits an offence and is liable –

- (a) on summary conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding fifteen years; and
- (b) on conviction on indictment to imprisonment for a term not exceeding twenty-five years.

(3) In this section –

“3D printing process” means 3D printing or additive manufacturing which is a process of making three (3) dimensional solid objects from a computer file and includes any of various processes in which material is joined or solidified under computer control to create a three (3) dimensional object, with material being added together including liquid molecules or powder grains;

“ghost gun” means a firearm, including a frame or a receiver, that lacks a unique serial number engraved or cased in metal alloy on the frame or receiver but does not include a firearm rendered permanently inoperable or that is not required to have a serial number.

**Trafficking of firearm or prohibited weapon**

19B. (1) A person who has in his possession two or more firearms or prohibited weapons is deemed to have the firearms or prohibited weapons for the purpose of trafficking the firearms or prohibited weapons, unless the contrary is proved, the burden of proof being on the accused, and such person commits an offence.

(2) A person who commits an offence under subsection (1) is liable –

- (a) on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding two hundred thousand dollars or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding fifteen years, or both; and
- (b) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding twenty-five years, or both.

(3) In this section, “trafficking” includes importing, exporting, acquiring, delivering, selling or transferring the firearms or prohibited weapons.”.

Amendment of section 20 of principal Act

- 7. Section 20 (4) of the principal Act is amended –
  - (a) by deleting “seven thousand dollars” and inserting “ten thousand dollars”; and
  - (b) by deleting “three years” and inserting “five years”.

Amendment of section 22 of principal Act

- 8. Section 22 (2) of the principal Act is amended –
  - (a) in paragraph (a), by deleting “five years” and inserting “seven years”; and
  - (b) in paragraph (b), by deleting “twenty years” and inserting “twenty-five years”.

Amendment of section 23 of principal Act

- 9. Section 23 (3) of the principal Act is amended –
  - (a) in paragraph (a), by deleting “five years” and inserting “seven years”; and
  - (b) in paragraph (b), by deleting “fifteen years” and inserting “seventeen years”.

Amendment of section 24 of principal Act

- 10. Section 24 (2) of the principal Act is amended –
  - (a) in paragraph (a) by deleting –
    - (i) “ten years” and inserting “fifteen years”; and
    - (ii) “twenty years” and inserting “twenty-five years”;
  - (b) in paragraph (b) (i) by deleting –
    - (i) “ten thousand dollars” and inserting “fifty thousand dollars”; and
    - (ii) “five years” and inserting “ten years”;
  - (c) in paragraph (b) (ii) by deleting –
    - (i) “twenty-five thousand dollars” and inserting “seventy-five thousand dollars”; and
    - (ii) “fifteen years” and inserting “twenty years”.
  - (d) in paragraph (c) (i) by deleting –
    - (i) “seven thousand dollars” and inserting “twelve thousand dollars”; and
    - (ii) “three years” and inserting “five years”;
  - (e) in paragraph (c) (ii) by deleting –
    - (i) “twenty thousand dollars” and inserting “fifty thousand dollars”; and
    - (ii) “ten years” and inserting “fifteen years”.

Amendment of section 44 of principal Act

- 11. Section 44 (3) of the principal Act is amended –

- (a) by deleting “two thousand dollars” and inserting “five thousand dollars”; and
- (b) by deleting “twelve months” and inserting “three years”.

Passed in the House of Assembly this        day of        2023.

Clerk of the House of Assembly.

#### **OBJECTS AND REASONS**

The object of this Bill is to amend the Firearms Act, Cap. 386, to increase the penalties in the Act and to create new offences.

Dr. the Hon. Ralph E. Gonsalves  
Prime Minister and Minister of National Security,  
Legal Affairs and Grenadines Affairs