

SENATE No. 1132

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Eileen M. Donoghue

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to dangerous weapons.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Eileen M. Donoghue</i>	<i>First Middlesex</i>
<i>Gerard T. Leone, Jr., Middlesex District Attorney</i>	<i>15 Commonwealth Ave Woburn, MA 01801</i>
<i>James J. Dwyer</i>	<i>30th Middlesex</i>
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>
<i>Barry R. Finegold</i>	<i>Second Essex and Middlesex</i>
<i>Denise Andrews</i>	<i>2nd Franklin</i>

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By Ms. Donoghue, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1132) of Eileen M. Donoghue, Gerard T. Leone, Jr., Middlesex District Attorney, James J. Dwyer, Thomas M. Stanley and other members of the General Court for legislation relative to dangerous weapons. Public Safety and Homeland Security.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 761 OF 2011-2012.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen
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An Act relative to dangerous weapons.

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. Section 10 of chapter 269 is hereby amended by striking out paragraph (b),
2 as appearing in the 2010 Official Edition, and inserting in place thereof the following paragraph:

3 (b) As used in this paragraph, the following words shall have the following meanings:

4 1. “ballistic knife”, a device that propels a knifelike blade as a projectile by means
5 of a coil spring, elastic material, or compressed gas. The term “ballistic knife” shall not include
6 any device which propels an arrow or a bolt by means of any common bow, compound bow,
7 crossbow, or underwater speargun;

8 2. “billy club”, a hand-held instrument designed for striking another with
9 concussive force, and shall include a nightstick, tonfa, spring-stick, or telescoping metal baton;

10 3. “blackjack”, a hand-held instrument with a weighted end designed for striking
11 with concussive force;

12 4. “brass knuckles”, a set of metal finger rings or guards attached to a transverse
13 piece and worn over the front of the doubled fist for use as a weapon, and includes any such

14 device whether made of brass, or of some other metal, or of another hard composite substance.
15 This definition shall include a knuckle-knife, meaning any brass knuckles attached to a blade

16 5. “butterfly knife”, any knife having a blade encased in a split handle that
17 manually unfolds with hand or wrist action with the assistance of inertia, gravity or both;

18 6. “dagger”, a bladed instrument designed for use as a weapon, including but not
19 limited to a dirk, stiletto, push-knife, boot knife, combat knife, or fighting knife;

20 7. “disguised knife”, any knife designed so that it is not readily recognizable as a
21 knife, and appears instead to be some non-threatening item such as a lipstick, pen, belt buckle,
22 air gauge, or any other common item;

23 8. “electrical weapon”, a portable device or weapon from which an electrical
24 current, impulse, wave or beam may be directed, which current, impulse, wave or beam is
25 designed to incapacitate temporarily, injure or kill, including, but not limited to, a taser or stun
26 gun;

27 9. “knife”, a cutting or stabbing instrument of metal or other resilient substance,
28 and shall include, but not be limited to, a sword or machete;

29 10. “leaded gloves”, any gloves or other hand-covering which are manufactured
30 or modified such that they contain a weighted element such as lead shot, designed so that the
31 wearer may strike another with enhanced force;

32 11. “nunchaku”, two sticks of wood, plastic or metal connected at one end by a
33 length of rope, chain, wire or leather, capable of striking another with force sufficient to cause
34 injury;

35 12. “switchblade knife”, any knife having an automatic spring release device by
36 which the blade is released from the handle, having a blade of over one and one half inches;

37 13. “throwing star”, a shuriken, or any instrument with one or more sharp edges
38 and designed in the shape of a polygon, trefoil, cross, star, diamond, or other geometric shape for
39 use as a weapon for throwing;

40 14. “undetectable knife”, any knife or other instrument with or without a
41 handguard that is capable of ready use as a stabbing weapon that is not detectable by a metal
42 detector or magnetometer set at standard calibration.

43 Whoever, except as provided by law, carries on his person, or under his control in a
44 vehicle, any dagger; any knife having a double-edged blade; any ballistic knife; any switchblade
45 knife; any butterfly knife; any disguised knife; any undetectable knife; any blackjack; any billy
46 club; any brass knuckles; any leaded gloves; any nunchaku; any throwing star; any electrical
47 weapon; or any other knife having a blade length of greater than 3 ½ inches that is possessed

48 during the commission of any felony or misdemeanor, or that is used or intended to be used in an
49 assaultive or otherwise unlawful manner; shall be punished by up to 5 years in the state prison, or
50 up to two and one half years in a jail or house of correction, or a fine of up to \$1,000, or both.
51 Whoever, after having been convicted of one or more felonies in any state or federal court,
52 violates the provisions of this paragraph shall be punished by imprisonment for a mandatory
53 minimum period of not less than 1 year nor more than 5 years in the state prison, or not less than
54 a mandatory minimum of six months nor more than two and one half years in a jail or house of
55 correction. Such a sentence shall not be suspended, nor shall any person so sentenced be eligible
56 for probation or receive any deduction from his sentence for good conduct. A fine of not more
57 than \$1,000 may be imposed, but not in place of the mandatory minimum term of incarceration.
58 Whoever shall violate the provisions of this section while in the commission of any felony shall,
59 in addition to any penalty for that felony, be punished by imprisonment for not less than a
60 mandatory minimum period of two and one half years nor more than ten years in the state prison,
61 or not less than a mandatory minimum of two years nor more than two and one half years a jail
62 or house of correction. A fine of not more than \$5,000 may be imposed, but not in place of the
63 mandatory minimum term of incarceration.

64 Nothing in this section shall prohibit possession of the above weapons by (i) a federal,
65 state or municipal law enforcement officer, or member of a special reaction team in a state prison
66 or designated special operations or tactical team in a county correctional facility, acting in the
67 discharge of his or her official duties who has completed a training course approved by the
68 secretary of public safety in the use of such a device or weapon; (ii) military personnel who
69 possess such weapons in question as part of their official duties; or (iii) an authorized supplier of
70 such devices or weapons if possession of the device or weapon is necessary to the supply or sale
71 of the device or weapon within the scope of a legitimate sale or supply enterprise.

72 SECTION 2. Subsection (o) of said Section 10 of Chapter 269, as so appearing, is
73 hereby further amended by striking the words "this section" in line 234, and inserting in its place
74 the following :- subsection (n).