



# 2018 AG REQUEST LEGISLATION

## BANNING THE SALE OF ASSAULT WEAPONS AND LARGE CAPACITY MAGAZINES

### PROBLEM

On the night of July 30, 2016, in Mukilteo, Washington, a deeply troubled 19-year-old shooter opened fire at a party using an assault weapon, killing three teenagers and seriously wounding another teen. He read the instruction manual in his car in the hour before beginning his act of terror.

Less than two months later, a 20-year-old killed five people at a mall in Burlington using a rifle with a 30-round magazine. The ages of the victims ranged from 16 to 95.

According to research from Everytown for Gun Safety, if a mass shooter uses an assault weapon or large-capacity ammunition magazine, 135 percent more people are shot and 57 percent more die, compared to other mass shootings. According to a study from Johns Hopkins, a national ban on large capacity magazines — even if it only stopped 1 in 5 incidents where these magazines were relevant — would prevent 100 homicides and 500 people from being wounded by shootings every year.

### BACKGROUND

Six states currently ban the sale of assault weapons and large capacity magazines—California, Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York. Hawaii bans the sale of some assault weapons.

Assault weapons sale bans are constitutional. Bans on the sale of assault weapons in New York, Connecticut, the District of Columbia, and Maryland have been upheld as constitutional by three different federal courts of appeals. The Supreme Court has allowed those decisions to stand.

### LEGISLATION (SB 5050/HB 1134)

This legislation prohibits the sale, manufacture, transfer, transport, and import of assault weapons and large-capacity magazines in Washington state. “Large-capacity magazines” have the capacity to accept more than 10 rounds of ammunition. The bill also requires safe and secure storage for assault weapons and large-capacity magazines grandfathered by being possessed on the effective date of the legislation.

This legislation uses the same definition of “assault weapons” as other states that have passed assault weapons restrictions upheld by the courts.



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