

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4553

To amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the purchase, ownership, or possession of enhanced body armor by civilians.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 18, 2026

Mrs. GILLIBRAND introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the purchase, ownership, or possession of enhanced body armor by civilians.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Aaron Salter, Jr., Re-
5 sponsible Body Armor Possession Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. BAN ON PURCHASE, OWNERSHIP, OR POSSESSION**
7 **OF ENHANCED BODY ARMOR BY CIVILIANS.**

8 (a) BAN.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 44 of title 18,
2 United States Code, is amended by adding at the
3 end the following:

4 **“§ 935. Ban on purchase, ownership, or possession of**
5 **enhanced body armor by civilians**

6 “(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ‘covered
7 law enforcement officer’—

8 “(1) has the meaning given the term ‘qualified
9 law enforcement officer’ in section 926B and the
10 term ‘qualified retired law enforcement officer’ in
11 section 926C; and

12 “(2) includes corrections officers.

13 “(b) PROHIBITION.—Except as provided in sub-
14 section (c), it shall be unlawful for a person to purchase,
15 own, or possess enhanced body armor.

16 “(c) EXCEPTIONS.—Subsection (b) shall not apply
17 to—

18 “(1) a purchase, ownership, or possession by or
19 under the authority of—

20 “(A) the United States or any department
21 or agency of the United States;

22 “(B) a State, or a department, agency, or
23 political subdivision of a State; or

24 “(C) a Tribe or law enforcement agency of
25 a Tribe;

1 “(2) a covered law enforcement officer; or

2 “(3) enhanced body armor that was lawfully
3 possessed by any person before the date of enact-
4 ment of this section.”.

5 (2) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMEND-
6 MENT.—The table of sections for chapter 44 of title
7 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at
8 the end the following:

“935. Ban on purchase, ownership, or possession of enhanced body armor by
civilians.”.

9 (b) ENHANCED BODY ARMOR DEFINED.—Section
10 921(a) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by add-
11 ing at the end the following:

12 “(39) The term ‘enhanced body armor’ means
13 body armor, including a helmet or shield, the bal-
14 listic resistance of which meets or exceeds the bal-
15 listic performance of RF1 armor, determined using
16 such standard as the National Institute of Justice
17 has in effect at the time at which a person pur-
18 chases, owns, or possesses such armor.”.

19 (c) PENALTIES.—Section 924(a) of such title is
20 amended by adding at the end the following:

21 “(9) Whoever knowingly violates section 935
22 shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not more
23 than 5 years, or both.”.

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