

QUESTION FROM ATA MEMBER:

From: [XXXXXXXXXX]
Sent: Tuesday, December 3, 2024 4:35 PM
To: GunInquiries (AGO) <guninquiries@mass.gov>

To Whom this may Concern:

I am writing you today to possibly get some clarification on a question that came up the other day. My squad mates and I were discussing whether or not we could still shoot ATA in Massachusetts. We are all members of the Amateur Trapshooting Association, and we are nonresidents of Massachusetts. A lot of our shooting events happen in Massachusetts, including the Massachusetts State Shoot. I'm aware that the new registration part of this new law is on hold until 2026 and, until then, are we still allowed to shoot these events? Some of us have nonresident LTC permits for Mass and some of us don't. Looking forward to your response.

If we are allowed to shoot these events it is our understanding that when the new registration takes affect all we will have to do is simply register our shotguns online to be able to keep attending these shoots. Thank you so much for your time and i look forward to hearing back from you.

Best
[XXXXXXXXXX]

RESPONSE FROM DEPUTY DIRECTOR & ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL:

From: GunInquiries (AGO) <guninquiries@mass.gov>
To: XXXXXXXXXXX, GunInquiries (AGO) <guninquiries@mass.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 5, 2024 at 04:19:29 PM EST

Thank you for reaching out, [XXXXXXXXXX]. The Attorney General's Office cannot provide legal advice or opinions to individuals, but I'm hoping that I can refer you to some helpful materials.

Section 129C(j) of Chapter 140 of the General Laws provides that **"A nonresident who is at least 18 years of age may possess rifles and shotguns that are not large capacity or semi-automatic and ammunition therefor: (i) to hunt during hunting season with a nonresident hunting license or a hunting license or permit lawfully issued from their state of residence, which has substantially similar requirements to those in section 11 of chapter 131, as determined by the colonel of the state police pursuant to subsection (l); (ii) while on a firing or shooting range; (iii) while traveling in or through the commonwealth; provided, that the rifles and shotguns that are not large capacity or semi-automatic shall be unloaded and in a locked container pursuant to sections 131C and 131L; or (iv) while at a firearm showing or display organized by a regularly existing gun collectors' club or association"** (emphasis added).

The registration system is in development by the Firearms Records Bureau and will be available in 2026, as required by the updated law. You will be able to find more information about registration on the [FRB website](#) when the system is available.

I hope this is helpful.

Thanks,

Ryan T. Mingo (he/him/his)
Deputy Director and Assistant Attorney General
Gun Violence Prevention Unit
Office of the Massachusetts Attorney General
One Ashburton Place
Boston, MA 02108
617-963-2139