

# **Defendant's Exhibit D**

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## JACQUES CONFIDENT ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN WILL PASS NEXT SESSION (12-3-1996)

SHNS.....JT.....DEC. 3, 1996.....Sen. Cheryl Jacques, the Legislature's most ardent supporter of banning assault rifles, today announced that she is refiling the bill that fell just short of passage at the end of last year's session.

At a morning press conference, Jacques (D-Needham) said the bill's chances of passage are "far better" than last summer, when the bill died in a conference committee as the deadline for formal debate expired.

"One thing that is considerably different is that the groundwork has already been laid," Jacques said, explaining her optimism that the Legislature will pass the proposal that prohibits the use and ownership of any one of more than two dozen weapons deemed assault rifles.

She said last month's elections proved that the public was "stunned" that such "common sense legislation" did not pass. "They thought it would pass easily," Jacques said.

Jacques pointed to the bill's failure as a key in several legislative races, including in state Senate races where ban supporters Susan Fargo and Andrea Nuciforo, both Democrats, beat opponents in open seats previously occupied by opponents Sens. Lucille Hicks (R-Wayland) and Jane Swift (R-North Adams).

Further, Jacques was joined at the announcement by Rep.-elect Ruth Provost (D-Sandwich), who knocked off freshman Rep. Samuel Corbitt (R-Wareham). Provost described Corbitt, who voted against the ban in the House, as a "gun dealer."

The bill passed the House last February, but remained stagnant in the Senate until June. But during debate, which was continually delayed as opponents used parliamentary tactics, amendments like allowing sportsmen to use the weapons at gun clubs were added to sway undecided senators.

The bill ultimately passed the Senate by one vote, but the conference committee charged with ironing out the differences in the two versions could not come to an agreement before the session ended on July 31.

Many of the supporters blamed House Speaker Thomas Finneran, an opponent of the ban, for appointing an anti-ban Democrat, Rep. William Glodis (D-Worcester), to the conference committee, taking away the pro-ban majority on the panel.

While Glodis is gone, not having run for re-election, the House's two chief ban supporters, former Speaker Charles Flaherty and Rep. James Brett (D-Dorchester), also chose not to seek another term.

That, however, has not lessened Jacques' optimism about the likelihood of the House passing the bill.

"It passed overwhelmingly in the House last year," Jacques said. "The speaker has made public comments that he will support taking it to the floor."

The bill, similar to the one Jacques and Attorney General Scott Harshbarger offered in February 1995, would ban the possession or sale of 25 assault weapons and any other guns meeting the definition of an assault weapon, which includes having a laser scope, a folding stock, or a barrel shroud. ASSAULT WEAPONS.....2.....SHNS.....DEC. 3, 1996

The legislation also prohibits the sale of high capacity ammunition

magazines that hold more than 10 rounds, and establishes a 10-year minimum mandatory sentence for anyone convicted of using a gun during the commission of a felony. In addition, the bill prohibits convicted felons from ever obtaining a firearm license, and increases penalties for illegal arms trafficking and sales of assault weapons to minors.

"Military style assault weapons are, in the words of Jim Brady, designed for one purpose and one purpose only - to kill as many people as possible, as quickly as possible," said Jacques. "They are the weapons of choice for cop killers, drug dealers, and juvenile gang members."

Rep. Christopher Hodgkins (D-Lee), a co-sponsor of the bill, noted that deer hunting season opened in his district yesterday, and that hunters will not be using assault rifles.

"A true sportsman doesn't need an Uzi to hunt a bunny rabbit or a deer," Hodgkins said. "These weapons need to be removed from our streets and our homes."

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