

ACT NO. 7825

**BILL NO. 31-0027**

**THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS**

**Regular Session**

**2015**

An Act amending title 14, chapter 113 of the Virgin Islands Code by defining the term assault rifle, and specifically criminalizing the unlicensed possession of an assault rifle and amending title 23, chapter 5, section 451 by adding a definition for assault rifle

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*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:*

**WHEREAS**, the Legislature of the Virgin Islands is cognizant of the proliferation of crimes involving the use of unlicensed firearms; Now, Therefore,

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:*

**SECTION 1.** Title 14, chapter 113 of the Virgin Islands Code is amended in the following instances:

(a) Section 2253(b) is amended by inserting "assault rifle" after "machine gun" wherever the term appears.

(b) In Section 2253(d), by adding a paragraph (10) to read as follows:

"(10) 'Assault Rifle' means a selective-fire rifle that uses an intermediate cartridge, including, but not limited, to the following characteristics:

- (A) It must be an individual weapon with provision to fire from the shoulder (i.e. a buttstock); and
- (B) It must be capable of selective fire; and
- (C) It must have an intermediate-power cartridge – more power than a pistol but less than a standard rifle or battle rifle; and
- (D) Its ammunition must be supplied from a detachable magazine."

**SECTION 2.** Title 23, chapter 5, section 451 of the Virgin Islands Code is amended by adding a new subsection (k) to read as follows:

“(k) ‘Assault rifle’ means a selective-fire rifle that uses an intermediate cartridge, including, but not limited, to the following characteristics:

- (1) It must be an individual weapon with provision to fire from the shoulder (i.e. a buttstock); and
- (2) It must be capable of selective fire; and
- (3) It must have an intermediate-power cartridge – more power than a pistol but less than a standard rifle or battle rifle; and
- (4) Its ammunition must be supplied from a detachable magazine.”

**SECTION 3.** Title 14 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 113, is amended as follows:

(1) In section 2253 (a) by striking “one year nor more than five years and shall be fined not less than \$5,000” and inserting “ten years and shall be fined not less than \$10,000;

(2) In subsection (b) by striking “two years nor more than seven years” and inserting “fifteen years nor more than twenty years” and by striking “fifteen (15)” and twenty (20)” respectively and inserting “twenty (20) and twenty five (25)” in subsection (e) by striking “10 years” and inserting “fifteen years” and in subsection (e) (3) by striking “10” and inserting “15”.

Thus passed by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands on December 17, 2015.

Witness our Hands and Seal of the Legislature of the Virgin Islands this 12<sup>th</sup> Day of January, AD, 2016.



Handwritten signature of Neville James in black ink.

Neville James  
President

Handwritten signature of Myron D. Jackson in black ink.

Myron D. Jackson  
Legislative Secretary



**Bill No. 31-0027 is hereby approved.**

**Witness my hand and the Seal of the  
Government of the United States  
Virgin Islands at Charlotte Amalie,  
St. Thomas, this 26<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2016 A.D.**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "K. Mapp", is written over the printed name.

**Kenneth E. Mapp  
Governor**