

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4568

To prohibit the purchase, ownership, or possession of enhanced body armor
by civilians, with exceptions.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 27, 2019

Ms. MENG (for herself, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Ms. NORTON, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. JACKSON LEE, and Mr. CARSON of Indiana) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To prohibit the purchase, ownership, or possession of
enhanced body armor by civilians, with exceptions.

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 “Responsible Body
5 Armor Possession Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. BAN ON PURCHASE, OWNERSHIP, OR POSSESSION**

7 **OF ENHANCED BODY ARMOR BY CIVILIANS;**

8 **EXCEPTIONS.**

9 (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 **“§ 932. Ban on purchase, ownership, or possession of**
5 **enhanced body armor by civilians**

6 “(a) Except as provided in subsection (b), it shall be
7 unlawful for a person to purchase, own, or possess en-
8 hanced body armor.

9 “(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply to—

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

12 “(A) the United States or any department
13 or agency of the United States; or

14 “(B) a State, or a department, agency, or
15 political subdivision of a State;

16 “(2) a qualified law enforcement officer; or

17 “(3) enhanced body armor that was lawfully
18 possessed by any person at any time before the date
19 this section takes effect.

20 “(c) In this section, the term ‘qualified law enforce-
21 ment officer’ means any current or former officer (includ-
22 ing a corrections officer), agent, or employee of the United
23 States, a State, or a political subdivision of a State author-
24 ized by law to engage in or supervise the prevention, detec-
25 tion, investigation, or prosecution of any violation of the

1 laws of the United States, a State, or a political subdivi-
2 sion of a State.”.

3 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
4 tions for chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code,
5 is amended by adding at the end the following:

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

6 (b) ENHANCED BODY ARMOR DEFINED.—Section
7 921(a) of such title is amended by adding at the end the
8 following:

9 “(36) The term ‘enhanced body armor’ means body
10 armor, including a helmet or shield, the ballistic resistance
11 of which meets or exceeds the ballistic performance of
12 Type III armor, determined using such standard as the
13 National Institute of Justice has in effect at the time at
14 which a person purchases, owns, or possesses such
15 armor.”.

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

18 “(8) Whoever knowingly violates section 932 shall be
19 fined under this title, imprisoned not more than 10 years,
20 or both.”.

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