

# Military, Law, and more ...

## SAF sues Massachusetts over gun ban for adults from 18-20; Cites violation of U.S. Constitution

BELLEVUE, Wash. — Feb. 14, 2025 — The Second Amendment Foundation (SAF) has filed a lawsuit in federal court challenging a Massachusetts statute which bans young adults in the 18-to-20 age group from acquiring, possessing or carrying any semiautomatic firearm of any type or any handgun. The case is known as Escher v. Mason.



Joining SAF are the **National Rifle Association, Gun Owners Action League, Commonwealth Second Amendment, Firearms Policy Coalition** and a private citizen, **Mack Escher**, for whom the case is named. They are represented by attorneys **Jason Guida** with a law office in Saugus, Mass., and **David H. Thompson, Peter A. Patterson and William V. Bergstrom** at Cooper & Kirk in Washington, D.C.

The lawsuit was filed in U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts.

Named as defendants are Col. Christopher Mason, superintendent of the Massachusetts State Police, and Heath J. Eldredge, chief of police in Brewster, Mass., in their official capacities.

Plaintiffs are challenging provisions of Massachusetts law enacted with passage of H.B. 4885, signed in July 2024 by Gov. Maura Healey.

"Massachusetts's law barring 18-20-year-olds from being able to acquire, possess, and carry commonly possessed firearms

fails to comport with the Constitution's command," said SAF Executive Director Adam Kraut. "These adult individuals are entitled to the full scope of the Second Amendment's protections, yet the State has opted to affirmatively treat them as if they have less rights. An honest look at our nation's history and tradition will only yield one result, that is, this law is blatantly unconstitutional."

"Federal law allows for legal action against states that deprive individuals of federal constitutional rights under color

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of state law," explained SAF founder and Executive Vice President Alan M. Gottlieb. "State legislatures that adopt such restrictive laws invariably mask their motives by claiming

they are 'gun safety' measures, but this isn't about guns, it's about rights. It's time for anti-gun officials in Massachusetts and elsewhere to understand that."

For more information, visit saf.org.

The Second Amendment Foundation (saf.org) is the nation's oldest and largest tax-exempt education, research, publishing and legal action group dedicated to safeguarding and promoting the fundamental rights of individuals enshrined in the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution. SAF engages in aggressive legal action to ensure the principles of armed self-defense, personal liberty, and the ownership of arms are defended, secured, and restored. Through public education initiatives, SAF teaches the importance of the Second Amendment to promote a society that values and exercises the right to keep and bear arms.

## From the Bill of Rights from the U.S. Constitution

### Amendment 1 (proposed 1789, ratified 1791)

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

### Amendment 2 (proposed 1789, ratified 1791)

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

## Tennessee Highway Patrol graduates 42 State Troopers; 17 cadets with prior military service included in class

NASHVILLE --- On February 13, Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security Commissioner Jeff Long and Tennessee Highway Patrol (THP) Colonel Matt Perry welcomed the newest graduating classes of Tennessee State Troopers.

The department instructed a regular 18-week trooper cadet class that exceeded the Tennessee Peace Officers Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.) Commission requirements. The graduation ceremony which took place at the Hermitage Hills Baptist Church

on Lebanon Pike in Nashville.

The 42 graduates of Trooper Cadet Class 225 included 17 cadets with prior military service, 6 cadets with associate's degrees, 17 cadets with bachelor's degrees, and 2 cadets with a master's degrees. Cadet Class 225 additionally hosted a blood drive with the American Red Cross.

Governor Bill Lee served as the keynote speaker during the graduation ceremony, and Commissioner Jeff Long swore in the new troopers as they delivered their

oaths of office.

"Today we celebrated the hard work and perseverance these cadets demonstrated as they prepared to join one of the finest law enforcement agencies in the country," said Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security Commissioner Jeff Long. "I commend these new troopers for stepping up to protect and serve the people of our great state. Congratulations to each one of them, and their families who've supported them, on this tremendous accomplishment."

"Becoming a Tennessee State Trooper is making promise to the people of Tennessee that no matter the hour, no matter the weather, someone will be there to help," said Colonel Matt Perry. He reminded them of the challenges of the job, the split-second decisions that would have to be made, and the risk to their personal safety. He continued, telling the newest members of the Highway Patrol, "Today you join a legacy of service that has stood strong since 1929, and you are now part of a tradition defined by honor, respect, and innovation."

Trooper Tabias Sirmones was named the top cadet for Trooper Cadet Class 225 and was presented with the Trooper Calvin Jenks Memorial Award for Excellence for his leadership, work ethic, and academics.

The award was named in honor of the late Trooper Calvin Jenks, who was killed in the line of duty in January 2007.

The Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security's mission is to serve, secure, and protect the people of Tennessee.

A Commentary from The Mid-South Tribune:

America is about 'Equality', not 'Equity'. Learn the difference.

Black History is about 'Equality' not, 'Equity'.

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See The Mid-South Tribune's 30th Annual Black History Month Edition.

## TN State Parks have \$1.9 billion impact on state economy; 'TN continues to invest in conservation'

NASHVILLE – Tennessee State Parks have an economic impact of \$1.9 billion dollars in the state and support employment of 13,587 people, according to an analysis by a leading economic consulting firm.

Based on figures from fiscal year 2024, the report by Impact DataSource says the parks created \$550 million in annual household income for Tennessee families. Because of the strong performance, state parks generated \$111.8 million in state taxes and \$22.1 million in local tax revenue. Overall, Tennessee State

*Tennessee continues to invest in a conservation strategy for our state's future, and Tennessee State Parks are a cornerstone of our efforts," said Gov. Bill Lee. "Tennessee's natural beauty and rich resources drive tourism and our economy, particularly in rural areas, and we welcome Tennesseans and visitors alike to enjoy all that the Volunteer State's great outdoors have to offer."*

Parks account for \$1.1 billion of Tennessee's gross domestic product. "Tennessee continues to invest in a conservation strategy for our state's future, and Tennessee State Parks are a cornerstone of our efforts," said Gov. Bill Lee. "Tennessee's natural beauty and rich resources drive tourism and our economy, particularly in rural areas, and we welcome Tennesseans and visitors alike to enjoy all that the Volunteer State's great outdoors have to offer."

"We are proud of the impact our

state parks have on the Tennessee economy," said David Salyers, commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. "We are grateful to Governor Lee and the Tennessee General Assembly for having such vision and commitment to conservation, and the figures show how that works for all Tennesseans."

The governor's conservation strategy, launched in 2023, includes the addition of more new parks than any administration. The plan balances the state's economic growth, especially in rural areas, while protecting the state's natural resources. Admission to each of the Tennessee State Parks is free.

The conservation strategy makes new investments in Tennessee State Parks lodges and maintains a focus on making Tennessee's state parks the most accessible in the nation, identifying and eliminating barriers that may exist for parks visitors.

The analysis presents the impact of state park visitors' spending in the local region and state, along with expenditures in operations, maintenance, capital, and grants. Impact DataSource, is an Austin, Texas, economic consulting, research, and analysis firm founded in 1993. The firm has conducted over 2,500 economic impact analyses of firms, projects, and activities in most industry groups in Tennessee and in more than 35 other states.

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Black History is about 'Equality', not 'Equity'. Learn the difference. Knowledge is colorless!



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