

**2012 -- H 7837 SUBSTITUTE A**

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LC01952/SUB A  
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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012**

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A N A C T

RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES - WEAPONS

Introduced By: Representatives Lally, and O'Neill

Date Introduced: February 28, 2012

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Chapter 11-47 of the General Laws entitled "Weapons" is hereby amended  
2 by adding thereto the following section:

3           **11-47-20.4. Body armor.** – (a) It shall be unlawful within this state for any person to  
4 purchase, own or possess body armor, if that person has been convicted of a felony that is a crime  
5 of violence. It shall be an affirmative defense under this section that the defendant obtained prior  
6 written certification from his or her employer that the defendant's purchase, use or possession of  
7 body armor was necessary for the safe performance of lawful business activity. Any person who  
8 violates the provisions of this section shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than three  
9 (3) years, or a fine of not more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000), or both.

10           (b) Definitions. For the purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:

11           (1) "Crime of violence" means murder, manslaughter, first degree arson, kidnapping with  
12 intent to extort, robbery, larceny from the person, first degree sexual assault, second degree  
13 sexual assault, first and second degree child molestation, assault with intent to murder, assault  
14 with intent to rob, assault with intent to commit first degree sexual assault, burglary, and entering  
15 a dwelling house with intent to commit murder, robbery, sexual assault, or larceny.

16           (2) "Body armor" means any product sold or offered for sale, in interstate or foreign  
17 commerce, as personal protective body covering intended to protect against gunfire, regardless of  
18 whether the product is to be worn alone or is sold as a complement to another product or garment.

1 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES - WEAPONS

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- 1           This act would make it unlawful for any person to purchase, own or possess body armor,
- 2 if that person has been convicted of a felony that is a crime of violence.
- 3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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