

# THE LAW OFFICE OF NEIL S. TASSEL

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Mr. Samuel Covino  
President, Minute Man Sportsman's Club  
56R Francis Wyman Road  
Burlington, MA 01803

RE: Non-resident Range Use

Dear Mr. Covino:

I have been asked to advise you, and the broader user community of the Minuteman Sportsman Club's facilities, regarding non-resident use of the range following the passage of Chapter 135 of the Acts of 2024. While it is true that the passage of this legislation impacts the use of the range by adult non-residents, it does not foreclose such use entirely, as discussed below.

As you are aware, under prior law, non-residents were permitted to participate in shooting events pursuant to M.G.L. c. 140, § 129C. Specifically, § 129C(g) provided an exemption from firearm licensing for the "[p]ossession of rifles and shotguns and ammunition therefor by nonresidents while on a firing or shooting range." Such shooters were also granted a waiver from licensing for transportation to and from the range by § 129C(h), which allowed "[p]ossession of rifles and shotguns and ammunition therefor by nonresidents traveling in or through the commonwealth, provided that any rifles or shotguns are unloaded and enclosed in a case." The type of rifle or shotgun was not limited, provided it did not violate any other restriction, such as the Assault Weapon Ban or applicable capacity limits.

Chapter 135 of the Acts of 2024 changed these rules in one key respect by eliminating permission for non-residents to possess semi-automatic rifles or shotguns. The new law, M.G.L. c. 140, § 129C(j), now provides in relevant part:

"A nonresident who is at least 18 years of age may possess rifles and shotguns that are not large capacity or semi-automatic and ammunition therefor: (i) to hunt during hunting season with a nonresident hunting license or a hunting license or permit lawfully issued from their state of residence, which has substantially similar requirements to those in section 11 of chapter 131, as determined by the colonel of the state police pursuant to subsection (l); (ii) while on a firing or shooting range; (iii) while traveling in or through the commonwealth; provided, that the rifles and shotguns that

are not large capacity or semi-automatic shall be unloaded and in a locked container pursuant to sections 131C and 131L; ...”

I understand that there is concern that the restriction applicable to non-resident hunters in subsection (i) also applies to range use and transportation discussed in subsections (ii) and (iii). I have no hesitation in advising you that it does not. I state this conclusion confidently for three reasons.

First, the reference to “as determined by the colonel of the state police pursuant to subsection (l)” appears only in subsection (i), which governs hunting. Subsection (l) further directs the colonel to identify states with requirements substantially similar to those of the Commonwealth for a firearm identification card and a hunting license. This explicit reference to hunting licensure confirms that the same requirement does not apply to range use or the simple transportation of rifles and shotguns.

Second, the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS) addressed this concern directly in its most recent guidance on the new law, issued on November 13, 2025. In Question 38, the guidance states:

“Can a non-resident bring a non-large capacity, non-semi-automatic rifle or shotgun into Massachusetts for use on a shooting or firing range?

Yes, pursuant to section 129C(j)(ii) & (iii).”

While EOPSS does not have the authority to issue a binding opinion, I do think its guidance would be viewed as instructive by a Court reviewing this issue.

Third, I have seen the email provided by Assistant Attorney General Ryan Mingo which

I do not feel that M.G.L. Ch. 140, § 129C(i) impacts this issue. This section provides:

(i) A nonresident who is at least 18 years of age may possess rifles and shotguns that are not large capacity or semi-automatic and ammunition therefor if the nonresident has a permit, card or license issued from their state of residence which has substantially similar requirements to those of the commonwealth for a firearm identification card as determined by the colonel of the state police pursuant to subsection (1)

I believe that this paragraph, which requires “a permit, card or license issued from their state of residence” for a non-resident does not apply to range use or hunting which are both provided for in paragraph (j). Instead, it appears to only govern

the possession of loaded long guns in the Commonwealth when the non-resident is not involved in hunting or range use whatever that use may be.

Accordingly, while the new limitation on semi-automatic rifles and shotguns may affect some non-resident members (those without non-resident licenses), there is otherwise no change to the law governing non-resident range use. Non-residents may continue to travel to the club to participate in range activities, provided their rifles or shotguns are not semi-automatic, are unloaded, and are transported in a locked container.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Neil S. Tassel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "N" and a long, sweeping tail.

Neil S. Tassel