



Pa. Senator Larry Farnese & Representative John Taylor Push Tougher Penalties for Gun Crimes

Press Releases

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Pennsylvania State Senator Larry Farnese and State Representative John Taylor have introduced legislation that would make Philadelphia safer by creating a mandatory minimum sentence for illegally carrying a firearm in the city.

The legislation – [Senate Bill 801](#) and [House Bill 1091](#) – would increase illegal possession of a firearm in Philadelphia to a third-degree felony and add a mandatory minimum sentence of at least two years of total confinement. Currently the offense is a misdemeanor.

Sen. Farnese (D-Philadelphia) and Rep. [Taylor](#) (R-Philadelphia), both Of Counsel to Archer in Philadelphia, announced the legislation at a news conference earlier this month. They were joined by fellow lawmakers and area law enforcement officials who support the effort, including District Attorneys Seth Williams of Philadelphia, Risa Vetri Ferman of Montgomery County and John J. Whelan of Delaware County. The officials said the proposed law would enhance public safety not only in Philadelphia, but in surrounding communities and throughout the region as well.

“This legislation, which I’m proud to be working on with my friend State Representative John Taylor, not only sets a mandatory minimum sentence for illegally carrying a gun in Philadelphia, but it gives Philadelphia’s law enforcement community an important new tool that will help curb gun violence and keep illegal weapons out of the hands of criminals,” Sen. Farnese said.

“We must do everything we can to protect our families from gun violence, and that starts with making sure those who illegally carry weapons are placed behind bars,” Rep. Taylor said. “This is commonsense legislation and long overdue.”

The officials noted that similar measures have helped to reduce violent crime in other cities where they have been enacted.

The bills are under consideration by the Judiciary Committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

[View video of the news conference announcing legislation and read a news release from Sen. Farnese.](#)

[Read a news release from Rep. Taylor.](#)

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