

EXPLANATORY NOTE

FIREARMS (AMENDMENT) BILL

1. The Bill for consideration is the Firearms (Amendment) Bill (the Bill).
2. The Bill amends the Firearms Act, Cap. 14.12 (the Act).
3. Clauses 1 and 2 of the Bill outline the short title and interpretation of the Bill.
4. Clause 3 of the Bill amends section 2 of the Act (Interpretation), by including a definition for the word “air gun” and removing from the definition of the word “firearm” the terms “air gun, air pistol and air rifle.”
5. Clause 4 of the Bill introduces an amendment to section 2F of the Act (Powers of the Board) that permits the Board to delegate to the Commissioner of Police (the Commissioner) the authority to grant a licence for an air gun and ammunition.
6. In clause 5 of the Bill, section 4 of the Act (Application for and grant of licence) is amended by the insertion of subsections (7) and (8), which provide for the conditions on which the Commissioner will grant a licence for an air gun and ammunition.
7. In clause 6 of the Bill, section 7 of the Act (Duration of licence) is amended by inserting the words “under Part 3” after the words “a licence” in subsection (3) and the insertion of a new subsection (4) setting out the duration of a licence for an air gun.
8. The provisions of clause 7 of the Bill amends section of the Act (Appeals) by deleting the words “appropriate authority” and substituting the word “Commissioner”.
9. In clause 8 of the Bill, the Act is amended by inserting a new section 13A (Airgun or ammunition licence), which sets out the application and restrictions for the possession and use of an air gun and the penalties for the breach of the clause.
10. The provisions in clause 9 of the Bill provide for the amendment of section 15 of the Act (Firearms dealer licence), by inserting the word “store” after the word “prove,”.

11. The provisions in clause 10 of the Bill provide for the amendment of section 16 of the Act (Converting firearms), which restricts the conversion of an air gun and a new subsection on the penalty for the breach of the section.
12. Clause 11 of the Bill provides for the insertion of the term “air gun” after the word “firearm” in the chapeau of section 27(1) of the Act (Use of firearm or imitation firearm with intent to commit an offence).
13. Clause 12 of the Bill amends section 31A of the Act (Prohibition against illicit trafficking in firearms and ammunition) by inserting a comma and the word “air gun” in the heading of the section and subsection (1), and a new subsection which permits the Comptroller of Customs to detain a firearm, air gun or ammunition imported contrary to the provisions of that section.
14. In clause 13 of the Bill, the Act is amended by the introduction of a new section 35A (Obtaining or disposing of an air gun or ammunition), which provides the rules for obtaining or disposing of an air gun and ammunition.
15. In clause 14 of the Bill, section 36 of the Act (Power of the Commissioner to store firearms and ammunition) is amended to provide for rules on how the Commissioner of Police may store and dispose of firearms and ammunition.
16. In the case of clause 15 of the Bill, section 42 of the Act (Custody of firearm) is amended by deleting subsection (1) and substituting a new clause that includes “an air gun licence”. The amendment also includes an insertion of the word “airgun: in subsection (1)(a) and (c) and for the deletion and substitution of subsections (2) and (3) that includes the words “an air gun”.
17. In clause 16 of the Bill, section 48 of the Act (Power to order surrender of firearms) is amended by inserting a comma and the words “air gun and ammunition” after the word “firearm” in the heading and subsections (1), (2) and (3).
18. In clause 17 of the Bill, section 50 of the Act (Inquiry by appropriate authority) is amended to provide for the accounting of ammunition acquired or purchased by a holder of a licence issued under this Act. The clause also sets out the action the appropriate authority may take where it has reason to believe that a holder of a licence acquires or purchases ammunition beyond the limits set out in the section.

19. To regulate the importation, sale, possession and use of a class of ordnance, clause 18 of the Bill amends section 53 of the Act (Regulations) by inserting in paragraph (g), the words “bombs and” after the words “possession or use”.
20. Clause 19 of the Bill amends section 54 of the Act (Non application of the Act) by inserting a comma and the word “air gun” after the word “firearm” in paragraphs (a), (b), (d), (e), and (f).
21. In the case of clause 20 of the Bill, except Parts 1, 2, 3, sections 22, 34, 43, 46 and 48 to 55 of the Act, the provisions of the Act are amended by inserting a comma and the words “or an air gun” after the word “firearm”.

SAINT LUCIA

No. of 2026

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

Section

1. Short title
2. Interpretation
3. Amendment of section 2
4. Amendment of section 2F
5. Amendment of section 4
6. Amendment of section 7
7. Amendment of section 10
8. Insertion of new Part 13A
9. Amendment of section 15
10. Amendment of section 16
11. Amendment of section 27
12. Amendment of section 31A
13. Insertion of new section 35A
14. Substitution of section 36
15. Amendment of section 42
16. Amendment of section 48
17. Substitution of section 50
18. Amendment of section 53
19. Amendment of section 54
20. Amendment of principal Act

[2026

I Assent

[L.S.]

SAINT LUCIA

No. of 2026

AN ACT to amend the Firearms Act, Cap. 14.12.

[]

BE IT ENACTED by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the House of Assembly and the Senate of Saint Lucia, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

Short title

1. This Act may be cited as the Firearms (Amendment) Act, 2026.

Interpretation

2. In this Act, “principal Act” means the Firearms Act, Cap. 14.12.

Amendment of section 2

3. Section 2 of the principal Act is amended —

(a) by inserting in the correct alphabetical sequence, the following definitions —

““air gun” means a barreled device that does not have a firing pin and is designed to be fired by using air pressure or spring pressure to emit solid metal pellets, ball bearings or darts and does not accommodate a cartridge that have a primer and propellant;

“cartridge” means a type of pre-assembled firearm ammunition that contains a projectile, propellant, and a primer, made to fit within the barrel chamber of a firearm and designed for shooting;”;

(b) in the definition of the word “ammunition”, by inserting immediately after paragraph (b) the following new paragraph (c) —

“(c) ammunition for an air gun;”;

(c) by deleting paragraph (b) in the definition of the term “firearm”;

(d) in the definition of the word “prohibited weapon”, by deleting the words “section 3” and substituting the words “section 21A”.

Amendment of section 2F

4. Section 2F of the principal Act is amended by inserting immediately after subsection (2), the following new subsections (3) and (4) —

“(3) Without prejudice to subsections (1) and (2), the appropriate authority shall delegate to the Commissioner the power to grant a licence for an air gun and ammunition.

(4) For the purpose of subsection (3), the appropriate authority shall —

- (a) accept, review, grant and revoke an application for a licence for an air gun;
- (b) maintain a register containing the details of each application, approval or revocation of an application for an air gun and ammunition;
- (c) provide the appropriate authority with a report on all applications reviewed and licences granted, renewed and revoked at the end of each financial year.”.

Amendment of section 4

5. Section 4 of the principal Act is amended by inserting immediately after subsection (6) the following new subsections (7) and (8) —

“(7) The appropriate authority may grant a licence for an air gun where the appropriate authority is satisfied that the applicant —

- (a) is a holder of a licence issued under Part 3;
- (b) is not a prohibited person under section 11;
- (c) has a good knowledge of the law in force in Saint Lucia relating to firearms and ammunition;
- (d) has made adequate provision for keeping the air gun and ammunition in a secure place when not in use; and

(e) on the grant of the licence, is not a danger to the public or the peace.

(8) A licence shall not be granted for an air gun —

(a) with a capacity exceeding nine hundred and fifty feet per second; and

(b) using ammunition exceeding point two two calibre.”.

Amendment of section 7

6. Section 7 of the principal Act is amended —

(a) in subsection (3), by inserting the words “under Part 3” after the words “a licence”;

(b) immediately after subsection (3) by inserting the following new subsection (4) —

“ (4) A licence granted for an air gun is, unless revoked, valid for three years and is renewable on the payment of the prescribed fee and the submission of the air gun for inspection by the appropriate authority.”.

Amendment of section 10

7. Section 10 of the principal Act is amended by deleting the words “appropriate authority” and substituting the word “Commissioner”.

Insertion of new section 13A

8. The principal Act is amended by inserting immediately after section 13 the following new section 13A —

“Airgun user licence

13A.—(1) In accordance with section 4 —

(a) a person desirous of using, carrying, possessing, purchasing or acquiring an airgun or ammunition may apply to the appropriate authority for an airgun user licence; and

(b) the appropriate authority may grant the airgun user licence.

- (2) An airgun user licence authorizes the holder to purchase, acquire, use, or possess in accordance with the terms of the airgun user licence, the airgun or ammunition identified or defined in the airgun user licence.
- (3) The appropriate authority may, on the application of the holder of an airgun user licence, authorize a person specified by the holder to carry or use the airgun or ammunition to, from or on premises belonging to the holder and the names of such persons shall be endorsed on the airgun user licence.
- (4) The appropriate authority shall not grant an airgun user licence under subsection (1)(b) unless the appropriate authority is satisfied that the person or persons have adequate proficiency in the use of and a justified need for the airgun or ammunition to which the airgun user licence relates.
- (5) A holder of an airgun user licence may on application to the appropriate authority have the licence amended by replacing the names of authorized persons endorsed on the airgun user licence.
- (6) The appropriate authority shall issue and sign a certificate stating that an authorized person or persons named is entitled to carry or use an airgun or ammunition to which the airgun user licence relates and the duration of such entitlement.
- (7) An authorized person or persons shall produce the certificate issued under subsection (6) at the request of a police officer or other authorized officer.
- (8) An airgun user licence must be in the prescribed form.
- (9) A holder of a valid firearm user licence granted under sections 13, 14, 17, 18 and 19 may make an application to the appropriate authority for an airgun user licence —
- (a) within six months commencing from the 31st day of December, 2026; and
 - (b) is exempt from the requirements under subsection (4).”.

Amendment of section 15

9. Section 15 of the principal Act is amended in subsection (3), by inserting immediately after the word “prove” a comma and the word “store”.

Amendment of section 16

10. Section 16 of the principal Act is amended —

- (a) in the heading, by inserting the words “or air gun” after the word “firearm”;
- (b) by deleting subsection (3) and substituting the following —

“(3) A person shall not convert an air gun into a firearm, restricted weapon or prohibited weapon.”;
- (c) by inserting immediately after subsection (3) the following new subsection (4) —

“(4) A person who contravenes this section commits an offence and is liable —

 - (a) on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding fifty thousand dollars or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding fifteen years or to both;
 - (b) on conviction on indictment to imprisonment for a term not exceeding twenty-five years.”.

Amendment of section 27

11. Section 27 of the principal Act is amended by inserting —

- (a) in the heading, a comma and the words “air gun” after the word “firearm”;
- (b) in the chapeau of subsection (1), a comma and the words “an air gun” after the word “firearm”.

Amendment of section 31A

12. Section 31A of the principal Act is amended —

- (a) by deleting the heading and substituting the following —

“Prohibition against illicit trafficking in firearms, air guns or ammunition”;

- (b) in subsection (1), by inserting a comma and the words “an air gun” after the words, “a firearm”;
- (c) by inserting immediately after subsection (2), the following new subsection (3) —
 - “(3) Without prejudice to the Customs (Control and Management) Act, Cap. 15.05, the Comptroller of Customs may detain a firearm, an air gun and ammunition imported or exported contrary to subsection (1).”.

Insertion of new section 35A

13. The principal Act is amended by inserting immediately after section 35 the following new section 35A —

“Obtaining or disposing of an air gun or ammunition

35A.—(1) A person shall not obtain an air gun or ammunition from a person other than a firearm dealer or a person holding a valid licence.

(2) A firearm dealer or a person holding a valid licence shall by notice in the prescribed form notify the appropriate authority within thirty days of a sale or disposal of an air gun or ammunition.”.

Substitution of section 36

14. The principal Act is amended by deleting section 36 and substituting the following —

“Power of Commissioner to store and dispose of firearms and ammunition

36.—(1) Subject to this Act, the Commissioner may store any firearm or ammunition which comes into the hands of a police officer.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1), the Commissioner of Police is required to maintain a register of all firearms and ammunition —

- (a) owned and approved for use by a police officer;

- (b) owned and used by an agency of the Government;
- (c) that comes into the possession of a police officer; and
- (d) that is owned and used by the Royal Saint Lucia Police Force or an agency of the Government and is not in use.

(3) Where a firearm or ammunition has been stored under this section for two years, such firearm or ammunition is regarded as abandoned.

(4) A gazetted officer in charge of the arms belonging to the police may make an application to the appropriate authority in the prescribed form for the disposal of all firearms and ammunition that are not in use.

(5) In an application for the disposal of firearms and ammunition under subsection (4), the gazetted officer may include a written request by an agency of the Government for the disposal of firearms and ammunition that are not in use.

(6) The appropriate authority may issue a permit in the prescribed form for the disposal of firearms and ammunition that are not in use.

(7) The disposal of firearms and ammunition under subsection (6) shall be witnessed by two police officers, one of whom shall be a police officer not below the rank of an inspector of police and a Justice of the Peace.

(8) The appropriate authority is required to issue a certificate of disposal in the prescribed form confirming the disposal of the firearms and ammunition

(9) In this section, “firearms and ammunition that are not in use” means firearms or ammunition that is rendered spent or defective through wear and tear, mechanical or a manufacturer’s defect and cannot be used.”.

Amendment of section 42

15. Section 42 of the principal Act is amended —

- (a) by deleting the chapeau of subsection (1) and substituting the following —

“(1) The holder of a licence who is leaving Saint Lucia and is not taking the firearm, sporting firearm, estate gun or air gun specified in the licence with him or her shall —”.;

- (b) in subsection (1)(a) and (c), by inserting a comma and the words “air gun” after the word “firearm”;
- (c) by deleting subsections (2) and (3) and substituting the following new subsections (2) and (3) —

“(2) Where a firearm, an air gun or ammunition received at a police station under subsection (1)(c) is unclaimed within one month of the delivery of the firearm, airgun or ammunition, a prescribed storage fee at the prescribed rate must be levied, and if the fee is not paid at the end of six months, the firearm, the air gun or ammunition shall be forfeited to the Government.

(3) An owner of a firearm, an air gun or ammunition under subsection (2) may claim the firearm, air gun or ammunition within six months of forfeiture on payment of the storage fee if he or she shows reasonable cause for the delay.”.

Amendment of section 48

16. Section 48 of the principal Act is amended—

- (a) in the heading, by inserting a comma and the words “air guns and ammunition” after the word “firearm”;
- (b) in subsection (1), by inserting a comma and the words “air guns” after the word “firearms”;
- (c) in subsections (2) and (3), by inserting a comma and the words “air gun” after the word “firearm”.

Substitution of section 50

17. The principal Act is amended by deleting section 50 and substituting the following —

“Inquiry by appropriate authority

50.—(1) On receipt of a true extract of a register under section 15, the appropriate authority may, if the appropriate authority has reason to do so, hold or cause an inquiry to be held into any purchase of ammunition by a holder of a firearms licence to determine whether such purchase is reasonable or justifiable taking into account the reason for the issuance of a licence and the category of licence.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1), a holder of a licence issued under this Act is entitled to own and have in his or her possession no more than two hundred rounds of ammunition.

(3) A licence holder shall provide an account to the appropriate authority for the ammunition acquired under subsection (2) before he or she can acquire or purchase other ammunition.

(4) Where the appropriate authority has reason to believe that ammunition is acquired for reasons outside the scope of a licence, the appropriate authority may—

(a) suspend the holder’s firearm licence and section 8 applies with the necessary modification;

(b) revoke the holder’s firearm licence and section 9 applies with the necessary modifications.

(5) For the purposes of an inquiry under this section, the appropriate authority may—

(a) summon a holder of a firearms licence to appear before him or her by a date to be specified in the summons;

(b) require the holder of a firearms licence to provide any information relevant to the inquiry.

(6) A person who fails to comply with this section commits an offence and is liable on conviction on indictment to a fine not exceeding fifty thousand dollars or to imprisonment for a term which may extend to four years or to both.”.

Amendment of section 53

18. Section 53(g) of the principal Act is amended by inserting the words “bombs and” after the words “possession or use of”.

Amendment of section 54

19. Section 54 of the principal Act is amended by —

- (a) inserting, immediately before the words “This Act”, the designation “(1)”;
- (b) inserting in paragraph (a), (b), (d), (e) and (f) a comma and the words “or an air gun” after the word “firearm”;
- (c) deleting the full stop after paragraph (f) and inserting a semicolon;
- (d) inserting a new paragraph “(g)” —
 - “(g) a member of —
 - (i) a security detail for —
 - (A) the head of an embassy, consulate or a mission;
 - (B) the diplomatic staff of an embassy, consulate or a mission,
 - (ii) a unit performing security duties for an embassy, a consulate or a mission in Saint Lucia,
 - (iii) a foreign law enforcement agency performing security duties or conducting an investigation in Saint Lucia.”;
- (e) inserting immediately after subsection (1) the following new subsections (2) and (3) —
 - “(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1)(g), where a head of a mission or an embassy or a foreign law enforcement agency requires a person to carry or use a firearm and ammunition he or she shall give notice in the prescribed form to the appropriate authority of the person.

(3) On receipt of a notice under subsection (2), the appropriate authority may issue, a certificate in the prescribed form, to a person issued with a firearm on behalf of the head of a mission or embassy or a foreign law enforcement agency.”.

Amendment of principal Act

20. Save and except Parts 1, 2, 3, sections 22, 34, 43, 46 and 48 to 55, the principal Act is amended by inserting a comma and the words “or an air gun” after the words “a firearm”.

Passed in the House of Assembly this day of ,
2026.

.....
Speaker of the House of Assembly.

Passed in the Senate this day of , 2026.

.....
President of the Senate.