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NEWS AND UPDATES SPECIAL EDITION OCTOBER 25, 2026

On Wednesday, October 21, 2026, New York Governor Kathy Hochul signed two laws which affect New York gun owners.

- **Francisco's Law,** It strengthens firearm safe-storage requirements and establishes penalties when a firearm is not properly secured and a child or prohibited person may gain access to it. The law is named after Francesco, a 17-year-old who died by suicide after accessing an unsecured firearm. This law is effective January 19, 2027.

Key provisions

- Secure storage: Firearms must be secured when they are not under the owner's immediate control, using qualifying locked storage or a locking device as specified by law.
- Protection of minors: The law addresses situations in which a minor could gain access to an unsecured firearm.
- Prohibited persons: It also addresses access by individuals legally prohibited from possessing firearms.
- Criminal penalties: Failure to comply can result in criminal consequences, including a Class A misdemeanor in circumstances specified by the law.
- Public reporting: New York's Office of Gun Violence Prevention is required to collect and analyze information concerning injuries and deaths of minors associated with failures to safely store firearms.

What firearm owners should do

- Use a qualifying locked safe or secure storage container, or an appropriate gun-locking device, when the firearm is outside your immediate possession or control.
- When leaving a firearm in a vehicle: remove the ammunition, lock the firearm in an appropriate safe-storage container, and keep it out of sight. A glove compartment or glove box does not qualify as an appropriate safe-storage container under the bill text.
- Pay particular attention to preventing access by minors and anyone prohibited by law from possessing firearms.

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- Review the complete law and its effective date before relying on any exceptions or compliance assumptions.

For the full text, visit New York State Senate — Francesco's Law (A1962)

In addition, New York Senate Bill S7236 was also signed into law on October 21, 2026, as Chapter 316 of the Laws of 2026. It amends New York Penal Law § 400.03 to restrict ammunition purchases by certain individuals who are legally prohibited from possessing firearms. The law takes effect immediately.

What the law does

The bill requires denial of an ammunition background check when it is determined that the purchaser:

- Is prohibited from possessing a rifle or shotgun under applicable New York law or federal law, including 18 U.S.C. § 922(g).
- Is subject to a temporary or final Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) issued under Article 63-A of New York's Civil Practice Law and Rules.

The amendment specifically adds these denial requirements to the state's ammunition background-check statute.

What this means for New York firearm owners

The key change is that ammunition background checks must account for New York-specific firearm possession prohibitions, not just federal disqualifications. The bill's sponsor specifically identified certain serious-offense convictions and ERPOs as examples of state-law restrictions that the amendment addresses.

- An ammunition purchase may be denied because of a state-law disqualification, even where the purchaser's situation is not captured by federal prohibitions alone.
- A temporary or final ERPO is explicitly identified in the statute.
- The law concerns ammunition background-check eligibility; it does not, by itself, establish a new general ammunition purchase limit for every lawful firearm owner.

For the full text, visit New York State Senate — S7236, bill text and legislative history

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