

A BILL

To abolish the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, repeal section 599A of title 28, United States Code, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Abolition Act of 2026”.

SECTION 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

- (1) The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), a component of the Department of Justice, regulates and enforces federal laws concerning firearms, explosives, arson, and the diversion of alcohol and tobacco, including licensing of firearms dealers and manufacturers.
- (2) By licensing, regulating, and restricting the making, sale, and possession of firearms and ammunition, the ATF regulates activities that are local and intrastate in character, exceeding the power granted in Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 “To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes,” a power that, as understood at ratification, reaches trade and exchange across State lines and not production, local activity, or the internal affairs of the States.
- (3) The functions of the ATF are not “necessary and proper for carrying into Execution” any power vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States and therefore find no support in Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, which Madison in Federalist No. 44 described as a means of executing powers already granted rather than a source of new ones, as the Anti-Federalist writer Brutus warned in his first essay of 1787 it would otherwise become.
- (4) The ATF exercises lawmaking power by issuing rules and standards that carry the force of law, contrary to Article I, Section 1, which vests “All legislative Powers herein granted” in the Congress alone, which may not transfer them to officers unaccountable to the people at the ballot box.
- (5) By restricting, registering, and redefining lawful arms and accessories by administrative rule, the ATF infringes the Second Amendment, which declares that “the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.”
- (6) By conducting warrantless inspections of licensees and maintaining records of firearm transactions, the ATF infringes the Fourth Amendment’s protection of “the right of the people

to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures,” and its requirement that no warrants shall issue “but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.”

(7) By revoking licenses and reclassifying lawfully acquired property as contraband by administrative action, the ATF violates the Due Process Clause and Takings Clause of the Fifth Amendment, which provide that no person shall “be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law” and that private property shall not “be taken for public use, without just compensation”.

(8) By imposing penalties and forfeitures disproportionate to any offense, the ATF subjects Americans to penalties and forfeitures that may be grossly disproportionate to any offense, contrary to the Eighth Amendment’s command that excessive fines shall not be “imposed.”

(9) By policing the diversion of alcohol, a subject the States regulate, the ATF intrudes upon the authority over intoxicating liquors that Section 2 of the Twenty-first Amendment confirms to the States.

(10) In carrying out its functions, the ATF disregards the Ninth Amendment, which provides that “The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people,” including the right of the people to order their own lives, property, and affairs free of federal direction in matters the Constitution does not commit to the Federal Government.

(11) The Constitution delegates to the United States no power over the arms of the people and the regulation of local commerce. By licensing, regulating, and restricting the making, sale, and possession of firearms and ammunition, the ATF exercises powers that the Tenth Amendment reserves “to the States respectively, or to the people,” contrary to Federalist No. 45, in which Madison described the powers delegated to the Federal Government as “few and defined” and those remaining in the States as “numerous and indefinite.”

(12) The Declaration of Independence affirms that governments are instituted to secure the unalienable rights of the people and derive “their just powers from the consent of the governed,” and it charged the Crown with having “erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our people, and eat out their substance.” The ATF perpetuates the centralized administration the Declaration condemned.

(13) Abolishing the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and repealing section 599A of title 28, United States Code, will reduce the size and cost of the Federal Government, return to the States and to the people the powers the Constitution reserves to them, and restore the constitutional principles of limited government and enumerated powers.

SECTION 3. ABOLITION OF THE BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES.

(a) In General.—The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, a component of the Department of Justice, is hereby abolished effective immediately following the enactment of this Act.

(b) Wind-Down Operations.—Immediately following the enactment of this Act, the President shall designate an appropriate official to expeditiously wind down the operations of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, ceasing all functions, none of which shall be transferred to any other department or agency of the Federal Government.

(c) Transfer of Assets and Liabilities.—All assets, liabilities, contracts, property, and records of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives shall be transferred to the designated official under subsection (b) for appropriate disposition.

(d) Employee Transition.—Employees of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives shall be offered opportunities for reassignment within the federal government or provided with severance and retraining assistance as prescribed by existing federal law.

SECTION 4. REPEAL OF PROVISIONS OF LAW ESTABLISHING THE BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES.

(a) In General.—Section 599A of title 28, United States Code, and any other provision of law establishing the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives or vesting functions in the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, are hereby repealed.

(b) Conforming Amendments.—The United States Code and all other relevant Federal laws are amended by—

(1) striking all references to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and to any office, officer, or function established in or vested in the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives;

(2) terminating every function of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, no part of which shall be reassigned to any other department or agency of the Federal Government; and

(3) making such other conforming changes as necessary to reflect the repeal and the permanent abolition of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

(c) Effective Date.—The repeal under this section shall take effect immediately following the enactment of this Act.

SECTION 5. TRANSITION PROVISIONS.

(a) No Restoration of Prior Structures.—No element of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives shall revert to its organizational structure as it existed prior to the establishment of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and no function of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives shall be restored to any predecessor

department, agency, or office.

(b) Permanent Abolition.—No department, agency, office, or other entity shall be established to carry out the functions of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives abolished by this Act.

SECTION 6. SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of this Act, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held invalid, the remainder of the Act and the application of such provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.