

HOUSE CONSUMER AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
HOUSE BILL 49

**57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2026**

This document may incorporate amendments proposed by a committee, but not yet adopted, as well as amendments that have been adopted during the current legislative session. The document is a tool to show amendments in context and cannot be used for the purpose of adding amendments to legislation.

AN ACT

RELATING TO CRIME; INCREASING THE PENALTY FOR A SERIOUS VIOLENT  
FELON WHO RECEIVES, TRANSPORTS OR POSSESSES A FIREARM OR  
DESTRUCTIVE DEVICE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

**SECTION 1.** Section 30-7-16 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1981,  
Chapter 225, Section 1, as amended) is amended to read:

"30-7-16. FIREARMS OR DESTRUCTIVE DEVICES--RECEIPT,

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TRANSPORTATION OR POSSESSION BY CERTAIN PERSONS--PENALTY.--

A. It is unlawful for the following persons to receive, transport or possess a firearm or destructive device in this state:

- (1) a felon;
- (2) a person subject to an order of protection pursuant to Section 40-13-5 or 40-13A-5 NMSA 1978; or
- (3) a person convicted of any of the following crimes:

(a) battery against a household member pursuant to Section 30-3-15 NMSA 1978;

(b) criminal damage to property of a household member pursuant to Section 30-3-18 NMSA 1978;

(c) a first offense of stalking pursuant to Section 30-3A-3 NMSA 1978; or

(d) a crime listed in 18 U.S.C. 921.

B. A felon found in possession of a firearm shall be guilty of a third degree felony.

C. A serious violent felon HJC→~~that is found to be~~  
~~in possession of~~←HJC HJC→**who receives, transports or**  
**possesses**←HJC a firearm HJC→**or destructive device, for the**  
**first and subsequent offenses, is guilty of a second degree**  
**felony**←HJC [~~shall be guilty of a third degree felony, and~~  
~~notwithstanding the provisions of Section 31-18-15 NMSA 1978,~~  
~~shall be sentenced to a basic term of six years imprisonment]~~

HJC→~~who violates this section is:~~

~~(1) for the first offense, guilty of a second degree felony and, notwithstanding the provisions of Section 31-18-15 NMSA 1978, shall be sentenced to no less than nine years imprisonment; and~~

~~(2) for the second and subsequent offenses, guilty of a first degree felony~~←HJC .

D. Any person subject to an order of protection pursuant to Section 40-13-5 or 40-13A-5 NMSA 1978 or convicted of a crime listed in Paragraph (3) of Subsection A of this section who receives, transports or possesses a firearm or destructive device is guilty of a misdemeanor.

E. As used in this section:

(1) except as provided in Paragraph (2) of this subsection, "destructive device" means:

(a) any explosive, incendiary or poison gas: 1) bomb; 2) grenade; 3) rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces; 4) missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-fourth ounce; 5) mine; or 6) similar device;

(b) any type of weapon by whatever name known that will, or that may be readily converted to, expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or other propellant, the barrel or barrels of which have a bore of more than one-half inch in diameter, except a shotgun or shotgun shell that

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is generally recognized as particularly suitable for sporting purposes; or

(c) any combination of parts either designed or intended for use in converting any device into a destructive device as defined in this paragraph and from which a destructive device may be readily assembled;

(2) the term "destructive device" does not include any device that is neither designed nor redesigned for use as a weapon or any device, although originally designed for use as a weapon, that is redesigned for use as a signaling, pyrotechnic, line throwing, safety or similar device;

(3) "felon" means a person convicted of a felony offense by a court of the United States or of any state or political subdivision thereof and:

(a) less than ten years have passed since the person completed serving a sentence or period of probation for the felony conviction, whichever is later;

(b) the person has not been pardoned for the felony conviction by the proper authority; and

(c) the person has not received a deferred sentence;

(4) "firearm" means any weapon that will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosion or the frame or receiver of any such weapon; and

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(5) "serious violent felon" means a person convicted of an offense enumerated in Subparagraphs (a) through (n) of Paragraph (4) of Subsection [L] N of Section 33-2-34 NMSA 1978; provided that:

(a) less than ten years have passed since the person completed serving a sentence or a period of probation for the felony conviction, whichever is later;

(b) the person has not been pardoned for the felony conviction by the proper authority; and

(c) the person has not received a deferred sentence and completed the total term of deferment as provided in Section 31-20-9 NMSA 1978."

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