

# SAFE ACT IN ACTION

Laws can seem abstract. Here are some ways the SAFE Act would work on the ground in your neighborhood.

## AT HOME

Guns must be safely stored with a locking device from any household member who has been convicted of a felony or domestic violence crime, has been involuntarily committed into mental-health treatment, or is currently under a restraining order. Unsafe storage of assault weapons is a misdemeanor.

## IN A THERAPIST'S OFFICE

Any therapist who believes a mental health patient made a credible threat of harming others has to report it to a mental health director, who then has to report serious threats to the state Department of Criminal Justice Services. A patient's gun could be taken from him or her.

## AT STORES THAT SELL AMMUNITION

Ammunition dealers are required to do background checks, like those for gun buyers, and report all sales to the state. Ammunition background checks will begin January 15, 2014.

# ABOUT THE PROJECT

Students in College Now's Research Methods Class at City College of Technology worked with the Center for Urban Pedagogy to take a complicated law, New York's new SAFE Act, and try to understand what it really means.

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Special thanks to our interviewee, Robert Feldstein, Senior Advisor, Mayor's Office of Policy and Strategic Planning, City of New York



The Center for Urban Pedagogy (CUP) is a nonprofit organization that uses the power of design and art to increase meaningful civic engagement.

City Studies are CUP's project-based in-class and afterschool programs that use design and art as tools to research the city.  
[welcometoCUP.org](http://welcometoCUP.org)

College Now is a free City University of New York program designed to prepare NYC's public high school students for success in college.  
[collegenow.cuny.edu](http://collegenow.cuny.edu)

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# MEET THE GUN LAWS

## BREAKING DOWN GUN CONTROL POLICY IN NEW YORK STATE

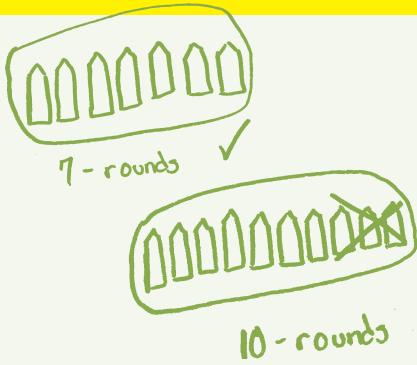


# THE NY SAFE ACT

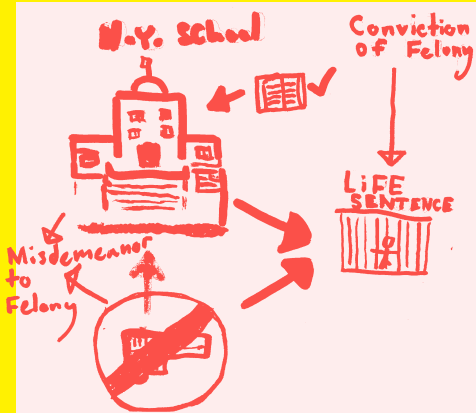
After the tragedy at Newtown, everyone looked for ways to prevent gun violence. One way was by making laws.

In 2013, a law called the **New York Secure Ammunition and Firearms Enforcement Act (NY SAFE Act)** was passed by New York State's Legislature. To figure out what this complicated law really means, we interviewed Robert Feldstein, who works on criminal justice policy in Mayor Michael Bloomberg's office.

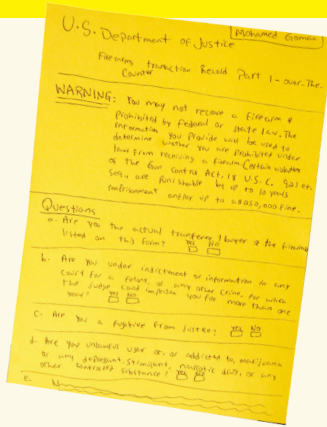
Here are the major points of the new NY SAFE Act and what they mean:



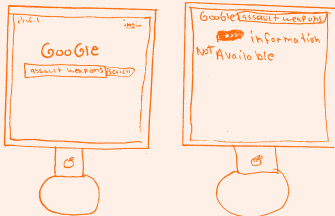
Magazines (where ammunition is stored in a gun) may only contain up to 7 rounds regardless of how many bullets it can store, unless you are at a firing range or competition, in which case you may load your magazine to its full capacity.



Sentences for gun crimes are now longer. Taking a gun on school property is now a felony, not a misdemeanor. (Felonies are more severe crimes than misdemeanors, and have higher penalties, like jail time instead of a fine).



Ammunition dealers are required to do **background checks** (see **ON BACKGROUND CHECKS** below) similar to those for gun buyers. Dealers are required to report all sales, including amounts, to the state.



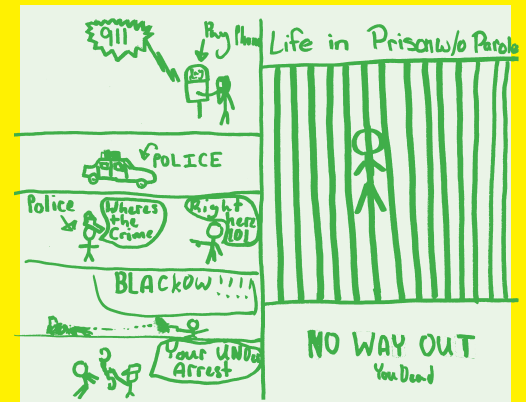
The online sale of **assault weapons** (see **WHAT'S AN ASSAULT WEAPON ANYWAY?** below) is banned. Internet sales of ammunition are allowed, but the ammunition will have to be shipped to a licensed dealer in New York State for pickup.

## ON BACKGROUND CHECKS

“People don’t understand what a background check is. They think: ‘I’m going to have to get fingerprinted, and interviewed, you’re going to call places I used to live.’ But in this context, it’s a 90 second process. They call, you give your name, your date of birth, your address, social. It runs in the computer, checks to see if you’re on any lists. People need to know it’s a really quick, simple process.”



**Robert Feldstein**  
Senior Advisor, Mayor's Office of Policy and Strategic Planning, City of New York



The penalty for shooting first responders is life in prison without parole.



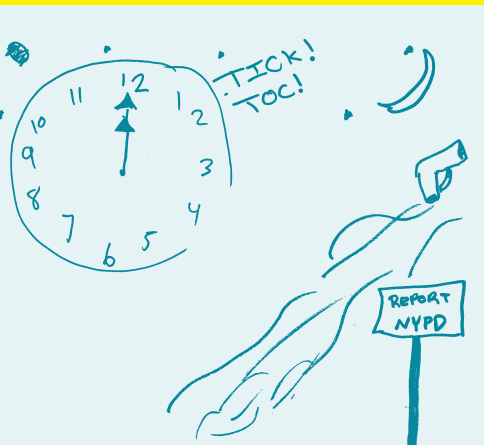
Law enforcement officials can pre-emptively seize a person's firearms without a warrant if they have probable cause to believe the person may be mentally unstable or intends to use the weapons to commit a crime.



Pistol Permit holders or owners of registered assault weapons must have them renewed at least every five years.

## WHAT'S AN ASSAULT WEAPON ANYWAY?

“It’s really hard to define, but there are basic rules. It’s a semi-automatic, which means every time you fire there’s a new bullet. So it fires off as quick as you can pull the trigger. It’s got a removable clip...The clip is the piece of metal inside that holds the bullets in place...And then it has combat features: things they have added to guns to make them easier to use in combat situations.”



Stolen guns are required to be reported within 24 hours. Failure to report can result in a misdemeanor.