



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Brad Hoylman-Sigal

## D.A. Bragg, Senator Hoylman-Sigal And Assemblymember Rosenthal Announce New Push To Address Emergence Of 3D-Printed Guns & Auto Sears

SENATOR BRAD HOYLMAN-SIGAL, D.A. ALVIN BRAGG, & ASSEMBLYMEMBER LINDA ROSENTHAL May 16, 2025

| ISSUE: **GUNS, GHOST GUNS**

Manhattan District Attorney Alvin L. Bragg, Jr., New York State Senator Brad Hoylman-Sigal, and New York State Assemblymember Linda Rosenthal today announced new legislation ([S227A/A1777A](#)) to combat the proliferation of auto sears, which are small, rapid-fire modification devices that can turn a semi-automatic firearm into a machine gun.

Under current New York State law, the possession of an auto sear can be charged as a class A misdemeanor and manufacturing can be charged as a class E felony. Sharing the files demonstrating how to construct and 3D print an auto sear, however, remains legal. The legislation announced today would seek to close this loophole by making it a class A misdemeanor to specifically distribute the files containing blueprints for 3D-printed auto sears.

Auto sears, which can be made of plastic or metal, are dangerous and easily accessible. They are inexpensive and can be purchased online, oftentimes disguised as harmless items, such as a Lego. As with 3D-printed firearms and ghost guns, technological advancements have rendered auto sears simple and affordable to manufacture in the comfort of one's own home. Once a 3D printer and digital 3D blueprint are obtained, the cost of printing one can be

as low as \$5.

The blueprints and files that teach individuals how to build and print an auto sear are shared online, often through encrypted apps and channels that are used by extremists.

In June 2023, District Attorney Bragg, Senator Hoylman-Sigal and Assemblymember Rosenthal proposed legislation that would make it a class D felony to manufacture 3D-printed guns and gun parts, and a class A misdemeanor to distribute the files containing blueprints to print these weapons and components. That language is also included in this new bill.

The new updated legislation comes as District Attorney Bragg and the D.A.'s Office work to stem the proliferation of 3D-printed guns and gun parts on multiple fronts. In March, D.A. Bragg sent letters to 3D-printing companies asking them to adopt additional security measures to block 3D-printed guns and gun parts. The Office is also in active conversations with companies that host the online blueprints to address these same issues. In 2024, the Office wrote a letter to YouTube, which resulted in the company enacting new policies around addressing content related to 3D-printed firearms and ammunition.

“Driving down gun violence and addressing the proliferation of 3D-printed and ghost guns is an ongoing priority for my office that requires an aggressive and holistic approach. Auto sears are dangerous weapons that further exacerbate gun violence and need to be treated extremely seriously. Our proposed legislation reflects a comprehensive legislative fix that would give us additional tools to hold people accountable who are using and developing illegal firearms. I hope the legislature gives serious consideration to this bill before the session ends in June, and I thank Senator Hoylman-Sigal and Assemblymember Rosenthal for their continued support and leadership,” said **District Attorney Bragg**.

**Senator Brad Hoylman-Sigal** said, “Last year D.A. Bragg, Assemblymember Rosenthal and I worked together to pass legislation requiring gun manufacturers to take reasonable steps to design their products in a way that ensures they aren’t compatible with auto sears, rapid-fire modification devices capable of transforming firearms into fully automatic machine guns. However, new technology has created the possibility for anyone, not just registered gun manufacturers, to self manufacture guns, magazines, and rapid modification devices with 3D printers, creating a dangerous loophole in our state gun laws. While the actual 3D printing is already illegal, sharing information to enable others to do so is not. That’s why we have introduced new legislation to criminalize the intentional sale, distribution, or disposal of digital instructions that may be used to program a three-dimensional printer to produce guns and gun parts (S.227A). Once passed, this would ensure that District Attorney Bragg and other D.A.’s across the state are able to prosecute not just those people who create or sell these 3D-printed guns, but also the people who make it easier for others to do so.”

“No one should be allowed to create instruments of war with a 3D printer,” said **Assemblymember Linda B. Rosenthal (D/WF-Manhattan), Chair of the Assembly Committee on Housing**. “As the federal government feverishly works to roll back key gun control measures, New York must do everything in its power to protect communities from the proliferation of illegal firearms. My legislation with Senator Hoylman-Sigal would ban the manufacture of ghost guns and ghost gun parts, further empowering law enforcement to seize and remove these dangerous weapons from our streets. I will continue pressing forward for the passage of this crucial bill in the Assembly, and I thank Manhattan District Attorney Bragg for his unwavering support in getting this measure over the legislative finish line.”

The growing popularity of 3D-printed guns and auto sears is represented in the D.A.’s Office’s gun prosecutions, including in:

- The indictment of [Luigi Mangione](#)
- The case against [Hayden Espinosa](#), who sold ghost guns and gun parts while in federal prison
- An [investigation into multiple ghost gun conspiracies](#) allegedly involving city employees
- [An individual manufacturing ghost guns and gun parts in his apartment](#)

The Manhattan District Attorney’s Office, in partnership with the NYPD and other law enforcement partners, established the Ghost Guns Initiative in 2020 to address the proliferation of ghost guns in New York City. To date, the Ghost Guns Initiative has prosecuted cases involving the seizure of over 134 ghost gun parts, 92 firearms, 443 high-capacity magazines, 49 silencers, and other gear including scopes and rapid-fire modification devices.

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#### RELATED LEGISLATION

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### **2025-S227**

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- Introduced
  - - In Committee Assembly
    - In Committee Senate

- ○ On Floor Calendar Assembly
  - On Floor Calendar Senate

- ○ Passed Assembly
  - Passed Senate

- Delivered to Governor

- Signed By Governor

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Relates to the regulation of three-dimensional printed firearms

December 20, 2024

In Senate Committee [Codes](#)

Sponsored by [Brad Hoylman-Sigal](#)

Do you support this bill?