1. In April 2012, the Government announced that it would introduce mandatory minimum penalties for weapons offences to address the illegal use of firearms.
2. The Bill provides for mandatory minimum periods of imprisonment for the following offences under *Weapons Act 1990* (the Act): unlawful trafficking (s 65), unlawful supply (s 50B) and unlawful possession of firearms (s 50).
3. The Bill also provides for mandatory penalties for adults who:

* unlawfully carry on the business of trafficking in weapons without a reasonable excuse, where at least one of the weapons is a firearm;
* unlawfully supply weapons without a reasonable excuse, where at least one of the weapons is a short firearm;
* unlawfully possess a firearm where the firearm is used in the commission of an indictable offence;
* unlawfully possess a firearm where the possession of the firearm is for the purpose of committing or facilitating an indictable offence; or
* unlawfully possess a short firearm in a public place without a reasonable excuse.

1. In addition, the Bill amends the Act to ensure that both unlicensed persons in possession of firearms and licensed persons in possession of unregistered firearms can be afforded protection against prosecution when surrendering weapons in compliance with an amnesty declared under s 168B of the Act.
2. The following red tape reduction initiatives also are included in the Bill:

* extends the term of category A and B licences from five years to a term of not more than 10 years;
* removes the obligation for an approved pistol club to provide an annual report to an authorised officer;
* extends the time frames for a licensed dealer to provide an annual report to an authorised officer;
* extends the time frames for a theatrical ordnance supplier to provide an annual report to an authorised officer;
* allows a shooting club representative to delegate functions;
* extends the term of a Permit to Acquire from three months to six months;
* allows a licensee to report a change in circumstances in a method approved by the authorised officer;
* recognises an interstate or international firearms licence as adequate knowledge of a weapon for the purposes of obtaining a Queensland firearms licence; and
* extends the time frame under which a licensee with an expired licence is required to demonstrate an adequate knowledge of a weapon from six months to 12 months.

1. Cabinet approved the introduction of the Weapons and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012 into the Legislative Assembly.

7. *Attachments*

* [Weapons and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012](Attachments/Attachment%201.pdf)
* [Explanatory Notes](Attachments/Attachment%202.pdf)