

Big headline: Virginia’s new **assault-firearm / magazine restrictions** under **HB217/SB749** were scheduled to take effect July 1. They restrict future sale, purchase, manufacture, import, and transfer of covered “assault firearms” and magazines over **15 rounds**, while generally allowing people to keep covered firearms/magazines lawfully owned before July 1. **However, enforcement is currently legally uncertain** because two circuit-court injunctions have blocked or complicated enforcement while lawsuits proceed.

Other July 1 gun-related changes include:

Law	What changed
HB21/SB27 – Firearm industry accountability	Creates standards of conduct for firearm manufacturers, distributors, dealers, etc., and allows civil enforcement/lawsuits for violations.
HB871/SB348 – Safe storage in homes	If a minor or prohibited person is present in the residence, firearms must be locked away/inaccessible or rendered inoperable with an appropriate gun lock.
HB110/SB496 – Handguns in unattended vehicles	A handgun left in an unattended vehicle must be out of plain view and in a locked hard-sided container, locked glove box, or locked center console.
HB626/SB272 – Public higher-ed buildings	Narrows the exemption for carrying firearms/explosives in buildings owned/operated by public colleges and universities.
HB229/SB173 – Hospitals with mental-health/developmental services	Prohibits knowingly bringing firearms and certain other weapons into covered hospital buildings, with exceptions.
HB19/SB160 – “Boyfriend loophole”	Expands firearm restrictions for certain domestic-violence convictions involving dating/intimate partners.
HB93/SB38 – Protective orders	Restricts firearm transfers when protective orders are issued.
HB1015 – Hate-crime firearm restriction	Applies to certain assault/assault-and-battery hate-crime convictions on or after July 1, 2026, restricting firearms/ammunition and related weapons for three years.
HB901/SB495 – Red flag expansion	Expands who may petition for emergency substantial risk orders.

A few important **not-quite-July-1** caveats:

HB1525 – private-sale background checks / age limits took effect **April 22, 2026**, but private-sale background checks are expected to **resume July 1** because a Lynchburg court injunction was set to dissolve then.

HB40/SB323 – ghost guns/unserialized firearms was signed, but its key provisions are delayed: manufacture/sale/transfer restrictions are set for **January 1, 2027**, and possession restrictions for **July 1, 2027**.

HB1524/SB727 – public carry of assault firearms appears to have been delayed to **July 1, 2027** by a budget amendment, so it is **not currently in effect** as of July 1, 2026.

Not legal advice, but this is the current practical summary I'd use before relying on anything in day-to-day carry, purchase, or storage decisions.

Information gathered using ChatGPT