

## FFL PROTECTION ACT

Federal firearm licensees (FFL) nationwide are too often the victims of burglaries and robberies. No one – especially an FFL business – wants to see legal-to-own firearms illegally stolen, winding up in the hands of someone who shouldn't possess them and ultimately used in the commission of a crime or violent act.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) tracks the number of FFL burglaries and robberies each year. According to ATF's data, burglaries rose to 331 in 2022 and increase by 3% in 2023 at 322, showing a minuscule increase in FFL burglaries.

The number of robberies from FFLs also saw an increase and increased 77% between 2022 and 2023. According to the ATF, 260 firearms were stolen during FFL robberies, a 136% increase from 2022.

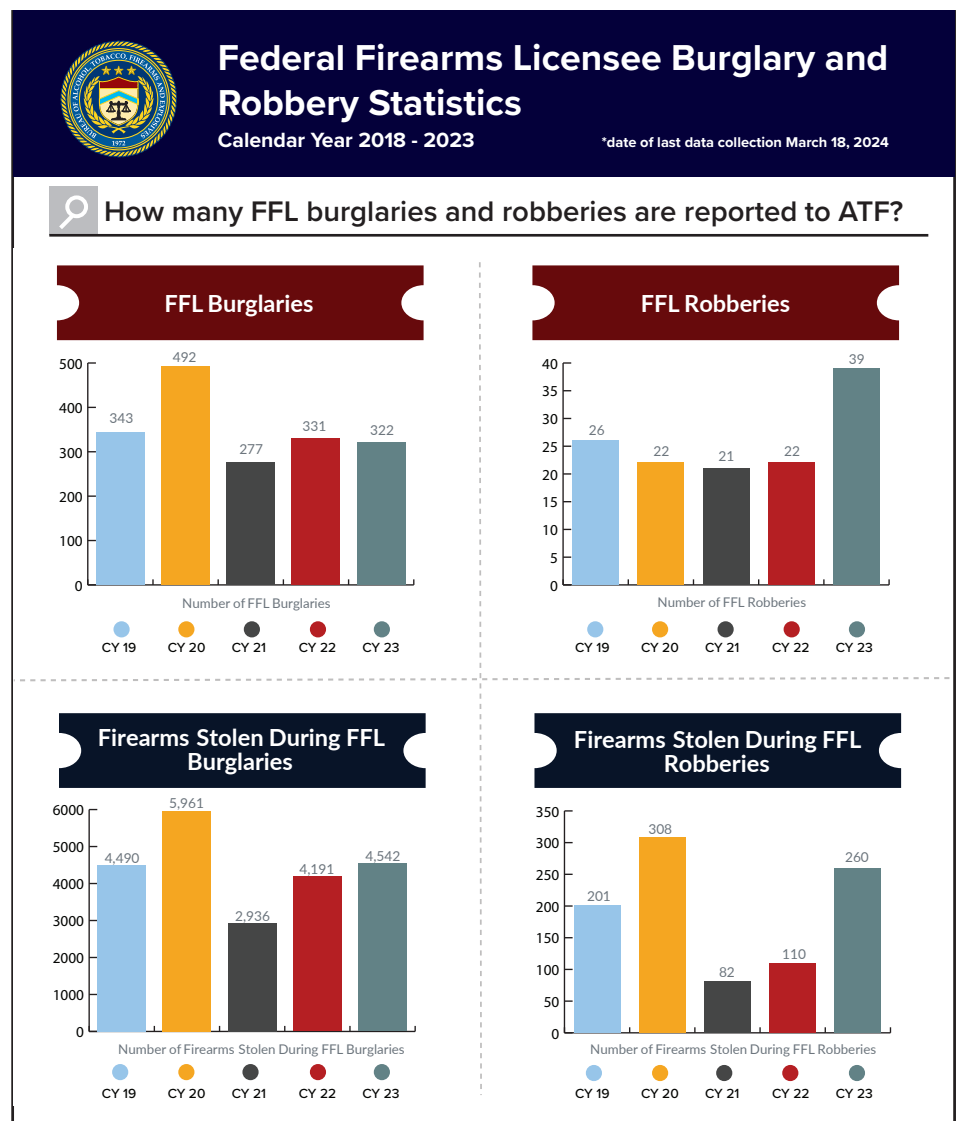
Any burglary, robbery, or firearm stolen, however, is one too many. It's why the National Shooting Sports Foundation® (NSSF®) and members of the firearm industry are working to support further declines.

To help address this ongoing threat to FFLs and to public safety, NSSF supports the passage of the Federal Firearms Licensee Protection Act of 2023, introduced as S.1907<sup>1</sup> by Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC), and as H.R.2620<sup>2</sup> by Rep. John Rutherford (R-FL).

This legislation would double the statutory maximum penalty for stealing a firearm from an FFL's

inventory from 10 years to 20 years. This legislation would also impose a mandatory minimum sentence of three years for burglary of an FFL and five years for robbery of an FFL. Additionally, the FFL Protection Act would criminalize the attempted theft of a firearm from a licensed importer, manufacturer, dealer, or collector.

The Federal Firearms Licensee Protection Act builds on the efforts NSSF has taken to address this problem through our partnership with ATF on Operation Secure Store<sup>SM</sup> ([operationsecurestore.org](https://operationsecurestore.org)). As part of Operation Secure Store, NSSF matches ATF reward offers for information leading to the arrest



and conviction of those responsible for the crimes if theft occurs. Additionally, NSSF helps educate FFLs on steps they can take to reduce the chance guns will be stolen from them during a burglary or robbery, and in cooperation with ATF, conducts retailer store security seminars, assists retailers with store security audits of their premises and endorses and promotes the use of security products like smash-resistant display cases.

Since every store is different, and there is no one-size-fits-all approach, these campaigns promote best practices for FFLs who remain high targets for determined criminals seeking to illegally obtain firearms to take proper precautions.

The FFL Protection Act enjoys the support of several major law enforcement organizations, including the National Fraternal Order of Police and the Major Cities Chiefs Association. NSSF urges

support for passage of the Federal Firearms Licensee Protection Act in the 118th Congress to assist law enforcement, protect the livelihoods of FFLs, help prevent firearms from falling into the wrong hands — and to ensure that criminals are taken off our streets and prosecuted to help provide for safer communities.

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<sup>1</sup> S.1907 - 118th Congress (2023-2024): Federal Firearms Licensee Protection Act of 2023, S.1907, 118th Cong. (2023), <https://www.congress.gov/bills/118th-congress/senate-bill/1907>.

<sup>2</sup> H.R.2620 - 118th Congress (2023-2024): Federal Firearms Licensee Protection Act of 2023, H.R.2620, 118th Cong. (2023), <https://www.congress.gov/bills/118th-congress/house-bill/2620>.