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Illinois is poised to pass an assault weapons ban. Will it withstand court challenges?

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This week, the Illinois General Assembly begins its lame duck session and lawmakers will likely use the final days before a new legislature is sworn in to vote on one of the nation's most hotly debated topics: banning semi-automatic weapons and high-capacity magazines.

Casting a shadow over the debate in Illinois are the horrific events of July 4, 2022, in Highland Park.

During the north suburban city's annual Fourth of July parade, a gunman — hiding on a rooftop along Central Avenue — used a semi-automatic rifle to fire into the crowd, killing seven people and wounding dozens of others, touching off a day filled with a creeping sense of unease around the region as the gunman remained at large.

[Read more here.](#)