



Gun Owners' Action League Newsletter

Upcoming Bills

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H.2202, Automatic Weapons Bill or General Gun Ban?

Recently GOAL obtained a copy of H.2202 "An Act to Close the Automatic Weapon Loophole" bill. The legislation was filed by Representative Antonio Cabral of New Bedford. The bill appears to have no cosponsors. At first glance one would logically come to the conclusion that the bill has something to do with machineguns. Unfortunately, you would be wrong. It is actually a potential ban on everything other than automatic firearms.

The very first section of the bill changes the Commonwealth's definition of "Assault Weapon" by deleting the exemptions that exist for manual action guns. The proposed change also does away with an important exemption that GOAL had put into law in our 2004 reform bill (Chapter 150 of the Acts of 2004).

The exemption was Appendix A of 18 U.S.C. 922, part of the federal assault weapons ban laws that were set to expire in 2004. The Appendix contained a list of hundreds of guns that could legally never be considered as "assault weapons".

Some examples of the guns on the list are Ruger Red Label Shotgun, Perrazi Sporting Classic O/U Shotgun, Browning Citori O/U Shotgun, Remington 870 Youth Model, Ancshutz Match Rifle, Thompson/Center Contender Carbine. Knowing the federal ban was set to expire and the Massachusetts ban was not, GOAL successfully worked to permanently attach Appendix A to the Massachusetts exemptions. H.2202 proposes to do away with that exemption.

The next two sections of the bill inserts language into the license to carry law (Chapter 140, Section 131) essentially banning the purchase, renting, leasing, borrowing, possession and carrying of assault weapons.

Section four of the bill is more than a little confusing as it deals with club licenses. The language removes an exemption in the law that currently allows the removal of large capacity weapons or large capacity feeding devices from the premises (club) for the

purpose of "hunting in accordance with the provisions of chapter 131."

The bill then moves to change the minimum sentencing for possession firearm (handgun), rifle or shotgun from 2 ½ years to "not less than three years." The minimum sentencing for drug and violent crimes in conjunction with gun crimes is increased from three years to a minimum of five years. It also intends to do away with the ability to serve concurrent sentences for certain crimes.

The bill clearly has nothing to do with machineguns (automatic weapons), but rather is intended to ban certain semi-automatic guns (assault weapons). Perhaps even more sinister is that by proposing to remove the crucial exemptions in the legal definition of "assault weapon" it is intentionally opening the door to label most any gun an assault weapon and thus potentially banning anything. If this is not the intention, then why remove the exemptions?

H.2202 is currently within the [Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security](#). We urge our members to contact the Committee members and ask them to oppose this blatant attempt to open the door for banning the possession of guns by lawful citizens.

Microstamping Bill Comes to Massachusetts

This is one bill that we have been waiting to appear here in Massachusetts. H.2247 "An Act to Improve the Ballistic Database through Microstamping Ammunition." Gun owners have seen these type of bills pop up all over the country for the past few years. Although there was a late file microstamping bill last session, it never got out of committee. H.2247 has been filed through the normal process and has ten cosponsors. No surprise that one of the names is Boston Mayor Thomas Menino.

This bill proposes to add language to Section 11E of Chapter 269 (Current serial numbers on firearms law.) In short the bill would mandate that all semiautomatic handguns manufactured or delivered to a licensed dealer in Massachusetts as of January 1, 2010 would be required to be capable of microstamping any ammunition fired from them.

One of the key components is the term "delivered to any licensed dealer" The bill doesn't just affect new semiautomatic handguns, it bans the delivery of all such handguns to a licensed dealer. The language could effectually ban a licensed dealer from accepting a noncompliant semiautomatic under any circumstances. Trades in, consignments, surrenders, storage, transfers, etc. would all be banned through a licensed dealer. There is supposedly an exemption in (D) to cover existing handguns, but we have seen how Massachusetts government interprets law and the exemption

language might mean something different to a government official than it does to a lawful gun owner. We have seen it happen.

As for the so-called technology, the National Shooting Sports Foundation has done a great job at debunking it. The following is taken from their website www.NSSF.org:

A recent independent, peer-reviewed, study published in the professional scholarly journal for forensic firearms examiners proved that the technology of microstamping is unreliable and does not function as the patent holder claims. It can be easily defeated in mere seconds using common household tools or criminals could simply switch the engraved firing pin for readily available unmarked spare parts, thereby circumventing the technology.

Experts at the University of California, Davis, recently finished a study of the technology which was requested and funded by the California State Legislature. The conclusions about the technology are straightforward and direct. The researchers found this patented technology "flawed" and concluded that "At the current time it is not recommended that a mandate for implementation of this technology in all semiautomatic handguns in the state of California be made. Further testing, analysis and evaluation is required."

NSSF and other groups, including major law enforcement organizations, are opposed to this unproven and unreliable technology. The cost of this dubious technology is a great concern to firearms owners and taxpayers alike. Microstamping legislation in California would not only have forced consumers of firearms to pay exorbitant price increases-as much as \$200 per firearm- to cover the increased cost of microstamping, but substantially higher taxes for the cost of microstamped law enforcement guns.

For more information on the microstamping debate, go to: <http://nssf.org/media/FactSheets/Microstamping.cfm>

H.2287 the Anti RKBA Buffet

H.2287 "An Act Relative to Firearms in the Commonwealth" is a re-file from the last legislative session. As stated in my title, it is a virtual buffet of anti RKBA legislation. Rather than taking up a lot of space with detailed explanations, I'll simply give a bullet point list of the proposals in the bill:

- A complete list of every handgun owned must be supplied to your licensing authority;
- \$250,000 insurance policy on every handgun to cover any harm or damage that might arise from the use;
- Place a member of Stop Handgun Violence on the state's Gun Control Advisory Board;

- Owners of guns to make lost or stolen reports or face heavy fines;
- Changing the mandatory training requirements for handguns to be a minimum of 20 hours long to include four hours of "practical shooting";
- One handgun a month;
- Solenoid use-limitation devices, voice recognition devices, automated fingerprint systems for handguns;
- Increasing the penalties for multiple unlawful sales.

Sincerely,

Angela/GOAL
Gun Owners' Action League

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