TITLE XIFIREARMS
Subtitle AAssault Weapons

IMPACT EVALUATION OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY AND RECREATIONAL FIREARMS USE PROTECTION ACT OF 1994

An Updated Assessment of the Federal Assault Weapons Ban: Impacts on Gun Markets and Gun Violence, 1994-2003

Federal Assault Weapons Ban: Legal Issues

Sections 110101 & 110102 (pages 201-203) only. Text in red is that included in the lead and in the first section of the Wikipedia assault weapons ban article as of 1 NOV 2013.

First two paragraphs of Overview (page 1 of report), plus title of table on page 13.

First part (pages 1-2) of first numbered section, plus title of table on page 11.

Summary info on the assault weapons ban (pages 3-5).

SEC. 110101. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the `Public Safety and Recreational Firearms Use Protection Act'.

SEC. 110102. RESTRICTION ON MANUFACTURE, TRANSFER, AND POSSESSION OF CERTAIN SEMIAUTOMATIC ASSAULT WEAPONS.

- (a) RESTRICTION- Section 922 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:
 - "(v)(1) It shall be unlawful for a person to manufacture, transfer, or possess a semiautomatic assault weapon.
 - "(2) Paragraph (1) shall not apply to the possession or transfer of any semiautomatic assault weapon otherwise lawfully possessed under Federal law on the date of the enactment of this subsection. "(3) Paragraph (1) shall not apply
 - "(A) any of the firearms, or replicas or duplicates of the firearms, specified in Appendix A to this section, as such firearms were manufactured on October 1, 1993;
 - "(B) any firearm that--

to--

- "(i) is manually operated by bolt, pump, lever, or slide action;
- "(ii) has been rendered

1. OVERVIEW [page 1]

Title XI of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (the Crime Control Act) took effect on September 13, 1994. Subtitle A banned the manufacture, transfer, and possession of designated semiautomatic assault weapons. It also banned "large-capacity" magazines, which were defined as ammunition feeding devices designed to hold more than 10 rounds. Finally, it required a study of the effects of these bans, with particular emphasis on violent and drug trafficking crime, to be conducted within 30 months following the effective date of the bans. To satisfy the study requirement, the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) awarded a grant to The Urban Institute for an impact evaluation of Subtitle A. This report contains the study findings.

In defining assault weapons, Subtitle A banned 8 named categories of rifles and handguns. It also banned exact copies of the named guns, revolving cylinder shotguns, and guns with detachable magazines that were manufactured with certain features such as flash suppressors and folding rifle stocks. The ban specifically exempted grandfathered assault weapons and magazines that had been manufactured before the ban took effect. Implicitly, the ban exempts all other guns; several of these, which we treated as legal substitutes, closely resemble the banned guns but are not classified as exact copies.

1. IMPACTS OF THE FEDERAL ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN, 1994-2003

[page 1]

This overview presents key findings and conclusions from a study sponsored by the National Institute of Justice to investigate the effects of the federal assault weapons ban. This study updates prior reports to the National Institute of Justice and the U.S. Congress on the assault weapons legislation.

The Ban Attempts to Limit the Use of Guns with Military Style Features and Large Ammunition Capacities

• Title XI. Subtitle A of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 imposed a 10-year ban on the "manufacture, transfer, and possession" of certain semiautomatic firearms designated as assault weapons (AWs). The ban is directed at semiautomatic firearms having features that appear useful in military and criminal applications but unnecessary in shooting sports or self-defense (examples include flash hiders, folding rifle stocks, and threaded barrels for attaching silencers). The law bans 18 models and variations by name, as well as revolving cylinder shotguns. It also has a "features test" provision banning other semiautomatics having two or more military-style features. In sum, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) has identified 118 models and variations that are prohibited by the law. A number of the banned guns are foreign semiautomatic rifles that have

The 1994 Assault Weapons Ban [page 3]

Congress enacted, as part of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, the Public Safety and Recreational Firearms Act (referred to as the "Assault Weapons Ban"), which established a 10-year prohibition on the manufacture, transfer, or possession of "semiautomatic assault weapons," as defined by the act, as well as large capacity ammunition feeding devices.

The act contained several exceptions, including a "grandfather clause" allowing for the possession of such items that were otherwise lawfully possessed on the date of enactment. The Assault Weapons Ban expired on September 13, 2004.

Generally speaking, an "assault weapon" is considered to be a military style weapon capable of providing by a selector switch either semiautomatic—that is, the firearm discharges one round, then loads a new round, each time the trigger is pulled until the magazine is exhausted—or a fully automatic firearm—that is, continuous discharge of rounds while the trigger is depressed until all rounds are discharged. Under federal law, a fully automatic firearm falls under the definition "machinegun," which is defined as "any weapon that shoots ... automatically more than one shot. without manual reloading, by a single function of the trigger." Semiautomatic firearms, including semiautomatic assault weapons, are "produced with

"(iii) is an antique firearm; "(C) any semiautomatic rifle that cannot accept a detachable magazine that holds more than 5 rounds of ammunition; or "(D) any semiautomatic shotgun that cannot hold more than 5 rounds of ammunition in a fixed or detachable magazine. The fact that a firearm is not listed in Appendix A shall not be construed to mean that paragraph (1) applies to such firearm. No firearm exempted by this subsection may be deleted from Appendix A so long as this subsection is in effect.

"(4) Paragraph (1) shall not apply

permanently inoperable; or

"(A) the manufacture for, transfer to, or possession by the United States or a department or agency of the United States or a State or a department, agency, or political subdivision of a State, or a transfer to or possession by a law enforcement officer employed by such an entity for purposes of law enforcement (whether on or off duty): "(B) the transfer to a licensee under title I of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 for purposes of establishing and maintaining an on-site physical

protection system and security

Federal law, or possession by

an employee or contractor of

such licensee on-site for such

training or transportation of

purposes of licensee-authorized

organization required by

purposes or off-site for

nuclear materials;

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Table 2-1. Description of firearms banned in Title XI [page 13]

been banned from importation into the U.S. since 1989.

- The ban also prohibits most ammunition feeding devices holding more than 10 rounds of ammunition (referred to as large capacity magazines, or LCMs). An LCM is arguably the most functionally important feature of most AWs, many of which have magazines holding 30 or more rounds. The LCM ban's reach is broader than that of the AW ban because many non-banned semiautomatics accept LCMs. Approximately 18% of civilian-owned firearms and 21% of civilian-owned handguns were equipped with LCMs as of 1994.
- The ban exempts AWs and LCMs manufactured before September 13, 1994. At that time, there were upwards of 1.5 million privately owned AWs in the U.S. and nearly 25 million guns equipped with LCMs. Gun industry sources estimated that there were 25 million pre-ban LCMs available in the U.S. as of 1995. An additional 4.7 million pre-ban LCMs were imported into the country from 1995 through 2000, with the largest number in 1999.
- Arguably, the AW-LCM ban is intended to reduce gunshot victimizations by limiting the national stock of semiautomatic firearms with large ammunition capacities which enable shooters to discharge many shots rapidly and other features conducive to criminal uses. The AW provision targets a relatively small number of weapons based on features that have little to do with the weapons' operation, and removing those features is sufficient to make the weapons legal. The LCM provision limits the ammunition capacity of non-banned firearms.

semiautomatic fire capability only."

Banned Weapons and Exemptions

The 1994 act made it "unlawful for a person to manufacture, transfer, or possess a semiautomatic assault weapon." Weapons banned were identified either by specific make or model (including copies or duplicates thereof, in any caliber), or by specific characteristics that slightly varied according to whether the weapon was a pistol, rifle, or shotgun.

The act also made it unlawful to transfer and possess large capacity ammunition feeding devices (LCAFD). An LCAFD was defined as "any magazine, belt, drum, feed strip, or similar device manufactured after the date [of the act] that has the capacity of, or that can be readily restored or converted to accept, more than 10 rounds of ammunition." LCAFDs manufactured after the date of enactment were required to have a serial number that "clearly shows" that they were manufactured after such date, as well as other markings prescribed by regulation.

The 1994 act included a grandfather clause and therefore allowed for the transfer of any "semiautomatic assault weapon" or LCAFD that was otherwise lawfully possessed on the date of enactment. Additionally, Congress exempted roughly 650 types or models of firearms, such as various models of Browning, Remington, and Berettas, deemed mainly suitable for target practice, match competition, hunting, and similar sporting purposes. This list was not exhaustive and the act provided that the absence of a firearm from the exempted list did not mean it was banned unless it met the definition of "semiautomatic assault weapon." The act also exempted any firearm that (1) is manually operated by bolt, pump, lever, or slide action; (2)

"(C) the possession, by an individual who is retired from service with a law enforcement agency and is not otherwise prohibited from receiving a firearm, of a semiautomatic assault weapon transferred to the individual by the agency upon such retirement; or "(D) the manufacture, transfer, or possession of a semiautomatic assault weapon by a licensed manufacturer or licensed importer for the purposes of testing or experimentation authorized by the Secretary.'.

"(b) DEFINITION OF SEMIAUTOMATIC ASSAULT WEAPON- Section 921(a) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(30) The term `semiautomatic assault weapon' means--

"(A) any of the firearms, or copies or duplicates of the firearms in any caliber, known as--

> "(i) Norinco, Mitchell, and Poly Technologies Avtomat Kalashnikovs (all models); "(ii) Action Arms Israeli Military Industries UZI and Galil;

"(iii) Beretta Ar70 (SC-70);

"(iv) Colt AR-15;

"(v) Fabrique National FN/FAL, FN/LAR, and FNC;

"(vi) SWD M-10, M-11, M-

11/9, and M-12;

"(vii) Stevr AUG;

"(viii) INTRATEC TEC-9, TEC-DC9 and TEC-22; and

"(ix) revolving cylinder

Table 2-1. Firearms Banned by the Federal Assault Weapons Ban [page 11]

has been rendered permanently inoperable; or (3) is an antique firearm. The act also did not apply to any semiautomatic rifle that cannot accept a detachable magazine that holds more than five rounds of ammunition nor any semiautomatic shotgun that cannot hold more than five rounds of ammunition in a fixed of detachable magazine.

Furthermore, there were exemptions that permitted semiautomatic assault weapons and LCAFDs to be manufactured for, transferred to, and possessed by law enforcement and for authorized testing or experimentation purposes. The other exemptions included a transfer for purposes of federal security pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act, as well as possession by retired law enforcement officers who are not otherwise a prohibited possessor under law.

shotguns, such as (or similar		
to) the Street Sweeper and		
Striker 12;		
"(B) a semiautomatic rifle that		
has an ability to accept a		
detachable magazine and has at		
least 2 of		
"(i) a folding or telescoping		
stock;		
"(ii) a pistol grip that		
protrudes conspicuously		
beneath the action of the		
weapon;		
"(iii) a bayonet mount;		
"(iv) a flash suppressor or		
threaded barrel designed to		
accommodate a flash		
suppressor; and		
"(v) a grenade launcher;		
"(C) a semiautomatic pistol that		
has an ability to accept a		
detachable magazine and has at		
least 2 of		
"(i) an ammunition		
magazine that attaches to		
the pistol outside of the		
pistol grip;		
"(ii) a threaded barrel		
capable of accepting a		
barrel extender, flash		
suppressor, forward		
handgrip, or silencer;		
"(iii) a shroud that is		
attached to, or partially or		
completely encircles, the		
barrel and that permits the		
shooter to hold the firearm		
with the nontrigger hand		
without being burned;		
"(iv) a manufactured weight	l l	
of 50 ounces or more when	l l	
the pistol is unloaded; and		
"(v) a semiautomatic	l l	
version of an automatic		
firearm; and	l l	
"(D) a semiautomatic shotgun		

http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS- 103hr3355enr/pdf/BILLS-103hr3355enr.pdf - pp. 201-203	http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/aw_final. pdf - p. 1 plus title of table on p. 13	http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/204 431.pdf - pp. 1-2 plus title of table on p. 11	http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R42957.pdf - pp. 3-5
detachable magazine.'.			
"(iv) an ability to accept a			
capacity in excess of 5 rounds; and			
"(iii) a fixed magazine			
weapon;			
beneath the action of the			
protrudes conspicuously			
"(ii) a pistol grip that			
stock;			
"(i) a folding or telescoping			
that has at least 2 of			