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Testimony presented to the Select Committee on Children

IN OPPOSITION TO RAISED BILL No. 6330 AN ACT CONCERNING LOOK-A-LIKE FIREARMS.

by Robert T. Crook, Director
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We OPPOSE this bill ONLY due to provisions which are in conflict existing statutes causing confusion and possible prosecution and we have submitted suggested changes.

In Section 1 we question the term “replica of a firearm” which is defined in current law “Sec 29-33 (f) The provisions of this section shall not apply to antique pistols or revolvers. An antique pistol or revolver, for the purposes of this section, means any pistol or revolver which was manufactured in or before 1898 and any **replica** of such pistol or revolver provided such **replica** is not designed or redesigned for using rimfire or conventional centerfire fixed ammunition except rimfire or conventional centerfire fixed ammunition which is no longer manufactured in the United States and not readily available in the ordinary channel of commercial trade.” –“(i) Any person who violates any provision of this section shall be guilty of a class D felony.” Sec.a of the bill states these replicas cannot be possessed and we urge removal of the phrase to avoid conflict. This change would not impact on the intent of the section.

We have no problem with the wording of subsection 1(b) (1) however this is redundant to Sec. 53-206c. Sale, carrying and brandishing of facsimile firearms prohibited. Class B misdemeanor.

Sec. 3 of the bill is contrary to Sec. 53-206 (b) (5) “the carrying of a BB. gun by any person taking part in a supervised event or competition of the Boy Scouts of America or the Girl Scouts of America or in any other authorized event or competition while taking part in such event or competition or while transporting such weapon to or from such event or competition; and (6) the carrying of a BB. gun by any person upon such person's own property or the property of another person provided such other person has authorized the carrying of such weapon on such property, and the transporting of such weapon to or from such property.” Some schools allow DEEP Hunter Safety Courses using look-alike-firearms, pellet/BB guns as training devices in the conduct of instruction. This can be corrected by including DEEP and “Boy Scouts of America or the Girl Scouts of America or in any other authorized event or competition” in Sec (c) (2).

We are aware of required special markings on facsimile firearms but could not find the specific state statute requiring the distinct color or red markings at the muzzle end of the facsimile. A suggestion offered by many of my members is that an additional section should be included. This

section would prohibit the addition of distinct red color or red markings at the muzzle end of a real firearm by criminals to make the real firearm appear to be a simulated firearm. This addition should carry a penalty of a Class D Felony as is the case with most firearm laws.

In summary, this well intentioned bill as presented will be confusing to the public and impacts the well regulated laws in effect and efforts of both the Public Safety and Judiciary Committees to establish reasoned criteria.

Thank you.