

# Judiciary Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** HB-7219

**Title:** AN ACT CONCERNING GHOST GUNS.

**Vote Date:** 3/20/2019

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable Substitute

**PH Date:** 3/11/2019

**File No.:**

***Disclaimer:** The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

## **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Judiciary Committee

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

“Ghost guns”, which are firearms that have not been registered or do not have a legitimate serial number, have been apprehended by law enforcement at a higher rate in Connecticut than ever before. There has been an increase in technology that allows people to create firearms, in their homes, that make it nearly impossible for law enforcement to track these firearms. There has also been an increase in crimes committed with these firearms that are not properly registered with adherence to local and state regulations and state and federal statutes. This bill aims to strengthen and update gun laws to ensure such laws reflect technologies.

## **SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE:**

In Lines 118-127, “frame or lower receiver” is defined. In Lines 130-145, the process for registering a firearm after the “manufacture or assembly” of such firearm to DESPP and further definitions within this act along with federal regulations. In Lines 154-168, restrictions are instituted on the distribution of firearms that have not been registered that do not comply with the new processes described in Lines 130-145. In Lines 177-182, “manufacture”, “assembly”, “firearm”, and “law enforcement agency” are defined.

## **RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

**CT Attorney General, William Tong:** Supports bill because the “sale or distribution of plans for 3-D printed guns is an extremely troubling, and frankly scary, development” and ghost guns undermine “state laws that are designed to keep guns away from individuals who should not have access to them”.

**Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection (DESPP), Office of the Commissioner:** Supports bill because it inhibits “those intending to do harm in our communities or those excluded from firearms purchases” and this bill will “help to reduce gun violence”.

## **SOURCES AND NATURE OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY:**

**The following groups and legislators SUPPORT the bill and provided testimony:**

**CT General Assembly Senate Democrats:** The Senate Democrats believe this bill would be a step in “being proactive about gun safety” which is “crucial to maintain the safety and wellbeing of our communities”. Building a ghost gun is also just “another circumvention of our laws”.

**Sen. Martin Looney:** Supports bill because “Connecticut should close this loophole and make our state safer”.

**Sen. Christine Cohen:** Supports bill because this bill will help in “keeping families safer”.

**Rep. Gail Lavielle:** Supports bill because law enforcement “have often cited their serious concern that firearms without serial numbers are difficult to trace and impede their efforts to gather information on violent or potentially violent crimes” and suggests additional language “requiring a safety inspection at the time of application for a serial number” of ghost guns.

**Rep. Lucy Dathan:** Supports bill because “we need to track guns to ensure that they do not fall in the wrong hands”.

**Rep. Anne Hughes:** Supports bill because “we now need proactive, updated laws that match the speed and the threat of highly advertised ‘unserialized, unregistered’ firearms”.

**CT Police Chiefs Association:** Supports bill because ghost guns have “created challenges to Law Enforcement and become a threat to innocent people from illegal gun owners or manufacturers” and this bill will “protect our communities and prevent individuals from circumventing the intent of current gun laws”.

**CT Against Gun Violence, Board Chair, Marty Isaac:** Supports bill because “ghost guns are a threat to public safety and enable citizens to easily bypass our laws” and there is “no valid reason for anyone to possess unregistered, untraceable firearms”.

**CT Against Gun Violence, Executive Director, Jeremy Stein:** Supports bill because “Connecticut needs to be proactive in the passage of their laws and not be reactive or wait until after the next mass shooting happens” and the “danger of ghost guns and their threat to public safety is very real”.

**CT Public Health Association, CPHA Advocacy Committee Chair, Roberta R. Friedman, SCM:** Supports this bill because ghost guns “carry no serial numbers, are untraceable, and

require no background check to buy” and this bill would help stop the threat that ghost guns carry.

**CT Voices for Children, submitted by Karen Siegal, MPH:** Supports bill because “evidence suggests that closing loopholes that might allow for the assembly or printing of gun parts could prevent deaths related to such weapons”.

**Several Members of the Yale School of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics, and Yale Child Study Center, submitted by Linda Mayes, MD and Clifford Bogue, MD:** Supports bill because the banning of these guns will “prioritize the health and safety of children across our state”.

**CT Conference United Church of Christ, submitted by Michele Mudrick:** Supports bill because “guns should not be sold without background checks, without serial numbers”.

**Newtown Action Alliance, submitted by Po Murray:** Supports bill because guns without “background checks or serial numbers must be banned to keep Connecticut safe”.

**Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek (CBSRZ), Rabbi Marci Bellows and Chair of the Social Action Committee at CBSRZ, Andy Schatz:** Supports bill, but suggests amendment to bill to change definition of firearm to remove the term “frame or lower receiver”, because most of the frames and lower receivers are not finished products and cannot be used to harm people, in relation to the gun.

**Greenwich Representative Town Meeting, Elected Member, Lorelei O’Hagan:** Supports bill because “actions must be taken” to prevent people who should not have guns from having guns.

**The following legislators and groups question aspects of this bill or OPPOSE the bill:**

**Rep. Tim Ackert:** Questions the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection’s ability to “provide a registration number for manufactured firearms at this time” and whether it would “have a negative effect on the renovation of a firearm”.

**CT Citizens Defense League, Legislative Coordinator, Ray Bevis:** Mr. Bevis opposes the bill and questions the constitutionality of it.

**CT Citizens Defense League, President, Scott Wilson:** Mr. Wilson opposes bill along with other related bills.

The following members of the public expressed their support or opposition to this bill:

<b>Support</b>	<b>Opposed</b>
Stephanie Ahl (Darien, CT)	Paul Acampora (Woodbridge, CT)
Kathleen E. Ahlberg (Stratford, CT)	Sandra Akoury
Melina Alcosser (Guilford, CT)	Dom Basile (CCDL)
Lisa Marie Alter (Westport, CT)	Sharon Bates (Wallingford, CT)
Amanda Ingrassia	Mark Bear (Hebron, CT)

Marni Amsellem (Stamford, CT)	Willard Bechter (Newington, CT)
Susan Anderson (Guilford, CT)	Charles Bendrick (Danbury, CT)
Robert Andrews (Moodus, CT)	Stephen Bennett (New Haven, CT)
Alisha Aum (Avon, CT)	Ray Bevis (CCDL)
Darlene Avery	Christopher Bitel (Middletown, CT)
Evelyn Avoglia (Stamford, CT)	Michael Biernacki (Windsor, CT)
Nancy Axthelm (Westport, CT)	Alan and Karin Blaschik (East Haddam, CT)
Paula Bacolini (Glastonbury, CT)	Todd Bogli (Middletown, CT)
Kara Nelson Baekey (Norwalk, CT)	John Buckley (New Britain, CT)
Lucy Ball (Darien, CT)	Mike Burke
Jennifer Balliet (Norwalk, CT)	Lorie C. (Thomaston, CT)
Jennifer Barahona (Fairfield, CT)	Chas Catania (Sherman, CT)
Stefanie Barrett (West Hartford, CT)	Joe Cavo (Danbury, CT)
Jennifer Barro (Greenwich, CT)	Michael Cheney (Colchester, CT)
Meredith Barrows (Simsbury, CT)	John Chunis (Rocky Hill, CT)
Joanne Bauer (Hartford, CT)	Anthony Cicchetti
Elizabeth Bayer (Wilton, CT)	Mark Ciosek (New Britain, CT)
Eric Beckenstein (Ridgefield, CT)	Amy Coniam (Manchester, CT)
Kim Beckett (Guilford, CT)	John Cripps (Seymour, CT)
Jennifer Belcolore-Arguello (Newtown, CT)	William Curlew (Windsor, CT)
Maureen Belden (Guilford, CT)	George Curry (Watertown, CT)
Michele Bernard (Guilford, CT)	Arthur Daigle (Plymouth, CT)
Vanita Bhalla (Woodbury, CT)	John Dale (Cromwell, CT)
Leslie Bhutani (Greenwich, CT)	Richard Daniotti (Tolland, CT)
Emily Bierman (Greenwich, CT)	Jacob Depot (Groton, CT)
Lois Block (Wilton, CT)	Guthrie Dinda (Lebanon, CT)
Amy Blume (Guilford, CT)	Roy Downey (Higganum, CT)
Anna Bonelli (Guilford, CT)	Nicholas DuBalde (Manchester, CT)
Charlene Bordonaro (North Granby, CT)	Brian Dunn (Suffield, CT)
Richard Boritz (Southbury, CT)	Michael Enders (East Haven, CT)
Blanche McCrary Boyd (Guilford, CT)	Peter Estrada (Hamden, CT)
Maryann Bracken (Guilford, CT)	Glen Fettes (Milford, CT)
Jane Brash (Riverside, CT)	Jeff Fluckiger (Ellington, CT)
Sarah Bromley (Milford, CT)	Joseph Gervasio (Oxford, CT)
Kristin Brown (Madison, CT)	John Gori (Milford, CT)
Janet and Paul Bryant (Glastonbury, CT)	William Grace (East Windsor, CT)
Kevin Cargos (Guilford, CT)	Walter Hagedorn (Milford, CT)
Cindy Carlson (Newtown, CT)	Ken Hanks (Naugatuck, CT)
Catherine Champigny (West Hartford, CT)	Ray Hanley (Southbury, CT)
Christine	Jonathan Hardy (Hartford, CT)
Colleen Clark (Guilford, CT)	Bill Hillman
Abby Clements (Newtown, CT)	Robert Holtz (Windsor, CT)
Brian Clements (Newtown, CT)	Lisa Hourigan (Meriden, CT)
Linda Cohen-Calger (Bridgeport, CT)	Paul Januszewski (Enfield, CT)
Patti Cole (Glastonbury, CT)	Robert Jones (Milford, CT)
Connie Cooper (Newtown, CT)	Jack Kavanaugh (Groton, CT)
Alix Copel (Madison, CT)	Stuart Keating (Durham, CT)

Kelly Copeland (Westport, CT)	Douglas Kneissl (Derby, CT)
Maureen Corcoran (Guilford, CT)	John Koch
Ellen Cordes (Guilford, CT)	Andrew Koehm (Brookfield, CT)
Amanda Cordana (Ridgefield, CT)	Mickey LaCrosse (Shelton, CT)
Robert Cotthaus (Glastonbury, CT)	David LaPorte (Ashford, CT)
Kim Craven (Madison, CT)	Nancy Leckerling (Madison, CT)
Siobhan Crise (Westport, CT)	Deborah Legg (Danbury, CT)
Nancy Cunningham (Guilford, CT)	Edward Leitkowski (Colchester, CT)
Hannah D'Avino (Newtown, CT)	Janet Luongo (Norwalk, CT)
Kristen and Marco D'Urso (Goshen, CT)	Ed Maccio
Elinor Darvick (Ridgefield, CT)	Patricia Magyari (Stamford, CT)
Katherine Day (East Lyme, CT)	Peter Maisano
Heather Dean (Fairfield, CT)	Chris Maldonado (North Haven, CT)
Amanda Dettmer Erard (Hamden, CT)	Brendan Malone (Suffield, CT)
Christine Dokko (Guilford, CT)	Devin and Tom Maloney (Stonington, CT)
Eric and Mary Donnelly (Bridgeport, CT)	Cheryl Marceau (Ridgefield, CT)
Barbara Doyle (Essex, CT)	Michael Marek (New Britain, CT)
Donna Doyle (Southbury, CT)	John Massari (Stamford, CT)
Shayna Druckman (Stamford, CT)	Michele McBrien (Beacon Falls, CT)
Mary Lee Duff (Guilford, CT)	Kristen McNulty (Wolcott, CT)
Chris Duffy (New Britain, CT)	Brian Mongeau (Dayville, CT)
Maryellen Duffy (Norwalk, CT)	Ken Morton (New Hartford, CT)
Tina Duryea	Richard Neal (Putnam, CT)
Michael Eanes (Litchfield, CT)	Michael Nintean (Lebanon, CT)
Helen Antonia Earnshaw (Newtown, CT)	Travis Palonen (Moosup, CT)
Karen Edwards (Stamford, CT)	Douglas Parkhurst (New London, CT)
Amy Elliott	Allen Petri (Lyme, CT)
Steven Erlingheuser (Ansonia, CT)	Wayne Petroskey (Killingworth, CT)
Kelsey Evans (New Haven, CT)	Frank Ricci (Wallingford, CT)
Christine and Patrick Farley (West Hartford, CT)	James Ritchie (Bristol, CT)
Ruth Feldman (Madison, CT)	Craig Samuelson (Easton, CT)
Karen Fischer (New London, CT)	Steve Seiser (Colebrook, CT)
Katie-Bo Fisher (New Canaan, CT)	Walter Skowron (Suffield, CT)
Julia Ann Francis (Guilford, CT)	Kim and Maria Smith (Canterbury, CT)
Isaac Freeman (Guilford, CT)	Seth Smith (Easton, CT)
Amber French (Fairfield, CT)	Richard Souza (East Hartford, CT)
Anne Freund (Branford, CT)	Robert Starr (Torrington, CT)
Lisa Freund (Guilford, CT)	Holly Sullivan (Southbury, CT)
Mark Friedman (Westport, CT)	Gary Sylvestre (Glastonbury, CT)
Roberta Friedman (Connecticut Public Health Association)	Roger Szendy (New Milford, CT)
Margaret Gaines (Simsbury, CT)	Joe Tampellini (Naugatuck, CT)
Elizabeth Skudder (Madison, CT)	Ray Tao (Wilton, CT)
Kathryn Gallagher (New Haven, CT)	Peter Terlesky (Suffield, CT)
Charlie Galliher (Ansonia, CT)	Christopher Torino (West Hartford, CT)
Debra Gregory (Guilford, CT)	Robert Truax

Alexis Gevanter (Greenwich, CT)	Ken Verdecchia (Simsbury, CT)
Beth Gilland (Greenwich, CT)	Richard Vollmer
Chris DiMeo (Greenwich, CT)	Seth Walter (South Windsor, CT)
Donna Grossman (Windsor, CT)	John Walters (Trumbull, CT)
Ruth Gruca (West Hartford, CT)	Kurt Weisheit (Terryville, CT)
Christine Halfar (Danbury, CT)	John Westlake (Coventry, CT)
Kim Hall (Wilton, CT)	Scott Wilson (Connecticut Citizens Defense League)
Ellen Hammen (East Lyme, CT)	Kristine Witherill (Connecticut Citizens Defense League)
John Harris (Simsbury, CT)	Lin Yang (Woodbridge, CT)
Margaret Hart-Banach (Newington, CT)	
John Hartig (Riverside, CT)	
Sally Jane Hartzell (Guilford, CT)	
Zachary Hayden (Westbrook, CT)	
Nicole Heath (Greenwich, CT)	
Darcy Hicks	
Howard Holtz (Bloomfield, CT)	
James Hyman (Guilford, CT)	
Leslie Hyman (Guilford, CT)	
Immacula Cann (Stratford, CT)	
Susan Iseman (Westport, CT)	
Marty Isaac (Connecticut Against Gun Violence)	
John and Laura Mitzelfelt (Guilford, CT)	
Jacqueline Johnson (West Hartford, CT)	
Brad Jubelirer	
Laura Kabel (Bridgeport, CT)	
Roslyn Kaplan (Stamford, CT)	
Susan Kassirer (Newtown, CT)	
Terri Eberle Katz (Ridgefield, CT)	
Bill Katz (Hartford, CT)	
Lisa Kelly (Guilford, CT)	
Veronia Kenausis (Bethel, CT)	
Amy Ford Keohane (Riverside, CT)	
Scott Kimmich (Norwalk, CT)	
Joan Kranz (Stamford, CT)	
Lisa Labella (Trumbull, CT)	
Alice LaBonte-Esposito (Guilford, CT)	
Amy Starensier Lee (Madison, CT)	
Nancy Lefkowitz (Fairfield, CT)	
Cynthia Lignar (Chester, CT)	
Elizabeth Litt (Newtown, CT)	
Caitlin Lodato (Waterford, CT)	
Tracy Lynch (Guilford, CT)	
Lillian Maisfehlt (Chester, CT)	
Janet Malloy (West Hartford, CT)	

Sarah Manning (Westport, CT)	
Carrie Mannino (New Haven, CT)	
Margaret Teape (Guilford, CT)	
Brandy and Scott Markovich (Guilford, CT)	
Laura Marks (West Hartford, CT)	
Kate Martin (West Hartford, CT)	
Kimberly Massuch (Newtown, CT)	
Tonya Mastrobattisto (Madison, CT)	
Nicole Matthews (Amston, CT)	
Mark Maugle (Groton, CT)	
Kathryn Mayer (Newtown, CT)	
Stacey Mayer (West Hartford, CT)	
Linda Mayes and Clifford Bogue (Yale School of Medicine)	
Kate McCarthy (West Hartford, CT)	
Peter Michael McCaughan (New Milford, CT)	
Amanda McCorry (Wilton, CT)	
Bernard and Cynthia McDonald (Fairfield, CT)	
Holly McGrath (Simsbury, CT)	
Coleman McJessy (Hartford, CT)	
Bob McLean (Guilford, CT)	
Janet Lee McMahan (Cos Cob, CT)	
Julie McNeill (Burlington, CT)	
Bonita Messman (Westport, CT)	
Caroline Miller (Chester, CT)	
Stacey Miller (Guilford, CT)	
Susan Miller (Windsor, CT)	
Jean Moore (Greenwich, CT)	
Marybeth Aucoin Moore (West Hartford, CT)	
Gina Morgan (Simsbury, CT)	
Beth Lander Morris (Newington, CT)	
Michele Mudrick (United Church of Christ)	
Peter Murchison (Ridgefield, CT)	
Paul Musico (Fairfield, CT)	
Terri Nackid (Bethel, CT)	
Nancy Leckerling (Madison, CT)	
Phyllis Nauts (Cornwall, CT)	
Charlotte Nelson (Simsbury, CT)	
John and Susan Nelson (Norwalk, CT)	
Mollie O'Brien and Michael Shea (Guilford, CT)	
Katherine O'Dell (Guilford, CT)	
Lorelei O'Hagan (Greenwich, CT)	
Anahi and Ian O'Dell (Guilford, CT)	
George Ogno (New Milford, CT)	
Sandra Olsen (Haddam Neck, CT)	

Dianne Orlando (Newtown, CT)	
Mary Anne Osborn (Guilford, CT)	
Gail Ostrow (Bridgeport, CT)	
Katie Owsley (New Canaan, CT)	
Simone Paradis (Newtown, CT)	
Sara Parent (Darien, CT)	
Laura Persun (Waterford, CT)	
Amy Pines (Westport, CT)	
Jason Polayes (Simsbury, CT)	
Brigid Pollack	
Sherri Pranzo (Guilford, CT)	
Neil Putnam (Madison, CT)	
Maryann Ramos (Greenwich, CT)	
Kerstin Rao (Westport, CT)	
Sarah Raskin (West Hartford, CT)	
Julia Regan (Stamford, CT)	
Sharon Rehme (Fairfield, CT)	
Linda Ann Reich (Guilford, CT)	
Barbara Richardson (Newtown, CT)	
Michael Richter (Ridgefield, CT)	
Tina Roman (Guilford, CT)	
Debra Rosati (Trumbull, CT)	
Marie Rose	
Steven Rubin (Greenwich, CT)	
Lauren Santos (West Hartford, CT)	
AnnMarie Sarbello (New Milford, CT)	
Shiva Sarram (New Canaan, CT)	
Linda Scacco (West Hartford, CT)	
Robin Schwartz (Avon, CT)	
Scott Schweizer (Norwalk, CT)	
Nada Sellers (Hartford, CT)	
Adrienne Serra (Wallingford, CT)	
Emma Sharma (Stamford, CT)	
David Shute (Suffield, CT)	
Allison Sidel (New Milford, CT)	
Karen Siegal (Connecticut Voices for Children)	
Ann Snow (Ridgefield, CT)	
Adam Sonnenfeld (Greenwich, CT)	
Ben Soreff	
Karli Spinella (Chester, CT)	
Michele Stawasz (New Milford, CT)	
Lorna Steele (Guilford, CT)	
Jeremy Stein (CT Against Gun Violence)	
Laurie Steven Dray (Guilford, CT)	
Kerry Stevens (Darien, CT)	
Elisabeth Stuart (Greenwich, CT)	



Dana Sulger	
Garrett Sullivan (East Haven, CT)	
Todd Szoka (Colchester, CT)	
Julia Taborsak (New Milford, CT)	
Lynn Taborsak (Danbury, CT)	
Shira Tarantino (Stamford, CT)	
Ross Tartell (Wilton, CT)	
Gavin Taylor	
Howard Taylor (Guilford, CT)	
Kathleen Mary Tepper (Norwalk, CT)	
Sue Timony-Hall (Madison, CT)	
Kirwin and Krampitz families (Clinton, CT)	
Joan Twiggs (Bloomfield, CT)	
Val (East Lyme, CT)	
Linda Valenzano (Stamford, CT)	
Tara Veith (Fairfield, CT)	
Alex Villamil (Newtown, CT)	
Becky Virgalla (Milford, CT)	
Anh Vo (New Haven, CT)	
Carol Wade (New Haven, CT)	
Jack Walker (Clinton, CT)	
Joan Walker (Madison, CT)	
Judianne Wallace (Branford, CT)	
Catherine and James Weaver (West Hartford, CT)	
Mary Welander (Orange, CT)	
Jennifer Weymouth (Simsbury, CT)	
Adam Whittaker (Wilton, CT)	
Ellen Williams (New Canaan, CT)	
Donna Wnuck (Bloomfield, CT)	
Jackie zVon (Newtown, CT)	

**Reported by: Logan Durant**

**Date: April 2, 2019**