



CONNECTICUT POLICE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

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H.B. No. 7219

Public Hearing: **March 7, 2019**
 Judiciary Committee

The Connecticut Police Chiefs Association
 Chief James Cetran
 Chief Paul Melanson
 Chief L. J. Fusaro
 Chief Scott Sansom
 Chief Robert Rosado
 Chief Keith Mello

H.B. No. 7219 AN ACT CONCERNING GHOST GUNS

The Connecticut Police Chiefs Association supports House Bill 7219, “AN ACT CONCERNING GHOST GUNS”.

This act will close loop holes in the current laws that allow unregulated firearms landing in the hands of individuals who pose a danger to Law Enforcement, the public or even themselves. This act will protect innocent individuals from those attempting to illegally obtain a firearm with a mindset to carry out criminal activities. The spirit of this language is clear and enhances public safety.

For the past few years, “GHOST GUNS” have created challenges to Law Enforcement and become a threat to innocent people from illegal gun owners or manufacturers. It is extremely important to have accountability and reduce the number of firearms possessed by individuals who cannot obtain a valid permit because of a mental health deficiency and/or pass a criminal history background check.

GHOST GUNS parts and frames are easily accessible for purchase by individuals of all ages, therefore, can land in the hands of any individual. The purchase of these parts and frames can be made through the internet, mail order or at retail locations. Instructions are provided or one can watch YouTube videos on how to build untraceable GHOST GUNS to circumvent gun laws. Once completed, there is no way for officers to determine the origin of these firearms. Individuals who are prohibited by law from owning a firearm may have an opportunity to obtain a firearm unlawfully unless the proposed strict regulations of H.B.7219 are made effective.

In 2018, the Willimantic Police Department has investigated a number of cases involving GHOST GUNS. The first investigation revealed that a 14 year old purchased a GHOST GUN kit with the frame and assembly parts with the intentions build an untraceable firearm. This investigation led to a 17 year old who also received kits for lower cast portions of a rifle with the intention to obtain more parts in order to build a rifle. A third investigation is ongoing in Federal Court where a joint

investigation was conducted by the Willimantic Police Department and a federal agency. This led to the arrest of an individual who obtained untraceable rifle parts and receivers by mail. This individual then built a number of rifles that were serviceable and illegally sold them.

The Connecticut Police Chief's Association is committed to reducing gun violence and increasing the safety in our communities. Therefore, it is paramount that this bill receives approval to protect our communities and prevent individuals from circumventing the intent of current gun laws.

Chief Rob Rosado - Connecticut Police Chief Association



