
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6684

AN ACT EXCLUDING CERTAIN TARGET SHOOTING PISTOLS FROM PROVISIONS ON ASSAULT WEAPONS.

SUMMARY

This bill (1) revamps the process the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) commissioner uses to identify semiautomatic pistols designed for target shooting events and make them exempt from the state's assault weapons ban and (2) broadens the types of target shooting pistols eligible for the exemption to include those designed and sanctioned for events other than the Olympic Games.

Under the bill, the DESPP commissioner must (1) identify the exempt pistols on the department's website, rather than in regulations; (2) review it at least annually; and (3) make any revisions he deems necessary. The bill also (1) repeals the existing regulations on the designated Olympic pistols (Conn. Agencies Regs. §§ 53-202b-1 to -5) and (2) requires the secretary of the state to correspondingly update the official online compilation of state regulations by January 1, 2024.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2023, except the provision requiring the DESPP commissioner to identify the exempt pistols is effective July 1, 2023.

LIST OF EXEMPT TARGET SHOOTING PISTOLS

Current law allows the sale, possession, and transport of certain semiautomatic pistols designated by the DESPP commissioner as designed expressly for use in target shooting events at Olympic Games sponsored by the International Olympic Committee (IOC). It requires the DESPP commissioner, in regulations, to designate the target shooting pistols that may be sold, possessed, or transported for this

purpose, as long as they are sanctioned by IOC and USA Shooting, or any subsequent corresponding governing board for international shooting competition in the United States.

The bill instead requires the commissioner, by October 1, 2023, to identify the exempt pistols on the department's website. It also broadens the types of semiautomatic pistols eligible for the exemption to include those designed for (1) target shooting and sanctioned by a United States or international target shooting organization or (2) use in the Olympic Games. Under the bill, this list must be used to identify the semiautomatic target shooting pistols that may be sold, possessed, or transported into the state under limited circumstances (e.g., to participate in a qualifying collegiate, Olympic, or target pistol shooting competition in Connecticut).

Under the bill, anyone purchasing a pistol on the DESPP list must (1) sign a form, set by the commissioner and provided by the seller, indicating that he or she will use the pistol primarily for target shooting practice and events and (2) apply to register the weapon within 90 days after the purchase. The same requirements apply under current law for the semiautomatic pistols designated in regulations.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 18 Nay 7 (03/16/2023)