

Public Safety and Security Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-6684

AN ACT EXCLUDING CERTAIN TARGET SHOOTING PISTOLS FROM

Title: PROVISIONS ON ASSAULT WEAPONS.

Vote Date: 3/16/2023

Vote Action: JOINT FAVORABLE

PH Date: 2/23/2023

File No.: 359

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Public Safety and Security Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill would have certain pistols used for competition removed from the assault weapon list and repeal existing regulations regarding such pistols. Many people use these small pistols in their sport of competitive shooting. Their classification as an assault weapon makes it difficult for people to obtain these firearms for the purposes of competitive shooting.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None Expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Vito E. Addabbo, Maj Gen, USAF: High end marksmanship pistols are highly refined for target shooting. Because of extensive machining required to achieve the necessary accuracy, most are very expensive and would not be the weapon of choice for a criminal. Primarily owned by responsible sportsmen, these pistols are normally kept in safe places the weapon of choice for a criminal.

Charles Baugh, CCDL member: There is no elevated risk to public safety by passing this bill and it may serve to increase public safety by allowing shooters to become more proficient and even less prone to accidents. There is also a possible benefit that shooters may come from out of state to attend competitions here which could benefit our struggling local economy.

Robert Kwasnicki, Town of Enfield Constable: HB 6684 as it will amend current law which infringes upon Connecticut athletes' opportunities to compete in select, elite competitions. This bill covers small caliber firearms that are more costly and not of common usage by criminals and should be made available.

Chester Brand: This bill allows Connecticut athletes to compete on equal footing as those from other states or other parts of the world.

Dennis Roy: They were classified as assault weapons by wording of the bill, not because of their intended purpose.

An additional 442 people support this bill.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

David Hyatt, Vice President, CSRR: We promote gun safety and support competitive shooting sports in the state. We are also competitive bullseye shooters since 1978. Criminals will steal their firearms and ammunition. In this state you need a permit in order to buy the ammunition so it will make no difference other than to punish the law-abiding citizen who partake in the sport.

Timothy Williams: I am an avid target shooter sports shooter and own several semi-automatic pistols used in my chosen sports and past time. I have adhered to all the gun control out in place already that infringes on my constitutional rights.

An additional 11 people opposed this bill.

Reported by: Bonnie Gray

Date: March 20, 2023