

FACT SHEET

Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson (D – 19)
Shotgun Definition

PURPOSE

This measure will ensure that shotguns with revolving cylinders, known for their killing power, continue to be banned under California's assault weapons ban.

BACKGROUND

Under current law, "smooth bore" shotguns with a "revolving cylinder" are classified as "assault weapons" and are illegal to use or possess in California. However, gun manufacturers have recently changed designs to a "rifled bore" shotgun with a revolving cylinder that fires both shotgun shells and rifle rounds. This weapon is not defined as a shotgun in California.

In 1989, California passed the Roberti-Roos Act, the first statewide law in the nation designed to ban assault weapons.

In 1999, California moved to update the law to address the industry's actions of changing designs to make illegal weapons legal.

The new "rifled bore" shotgun with a revolving cylinder has similar characteristics to the Street Sweeper semi-automatic shotgun that was used in drive by shootings in the 1990s and banned in 1999 as a destructive device.

NEED FOR THE BILL

According to the Department of Justice and other law enforcement, the current definition of a shotgun does not cover the new technology the gun manufacturers are designing and needs to be updated to close a loophole that manufacturers are exploiting.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Office of Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson– (916) 651-4019.