

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2421

To amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to regulate the sale and manufacture of certain armor piercing ammunition and armor piercing incendiary ammunition, and to regulate laser sights under the National Firearms Act.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 1, 1999

Mr. BLAGOJEVICH (for himself, Mr. WAXMAN, and Ms. NORTON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to regulate the sale and manufacture of certain armor piercing ammunition and armor piercing incendiary ammunition, and to regulate laser sights under the National Firearms Act.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Law Enforcement Offi-
3 cial Protection and Officer John C. Knight Memorial Act
4 of 1999”.

5 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

6 The Congress finds that—

7 (1) Chicago Police Officer John C. Knight, a
8 man who emulated his father by dedicating his life
9 to preserving public safety, left behind his wife and
10 three children when he was killed in the line of duty
11 on January 9, 1999 by a felon armed with handgun
12 equipped with a laser sight device.

13 (2) More than any other weapon, firearms pose
14 the greatest threat to our Nation’s law enforcement
15 officers. Between 1988 and 1997, firearms claimed
16 the lives of 92 percent of the 688 officers killed in
17 the line of duty and another 30,705 were assaulted
18 with guns.

19 (3) The risk to our Nation’s law enforcement
20 officers increases when violent offenders possess
21 lethality-enhancing devices, such as laser sights, that
22 are easily accessible and highly unregulated.

23 (4) Ammunition known as “armor piercing” or
24 “armor piercing incendiary”, which can puncture po-
25 lice body armor, light armored vehicles, ballistic or
26 armored glass and armored limousines, also poses a

1 threat to the lives and the mission of our Nation's
2 law enforcement officers.

3 (5) Armor piercing and armor piercing incen-
4 diary ammunition, designed for use in military rifles,
5 is readily available for virtually unrestricted sale on
6 the civilian market. The potential uses for such am-
7 munition by violent offenders, terrorists or others
8 against law enforcement personnel or critical compo-
9 nents of the national infrastructure presents a seri-
10 ous threat to public safety and national security.

11 (6) While handguns are the most commonly
12 used weapons in the murders of both law enforce-
13 ment officers and civilians, current law doesn't re-
14 strict the development of future generations of
15 armor piercing ammunition for use in handguns.

16 **SEC. 3. TREATMENT OF CERTAIN MILITARY AMMUNITION**
17 **AS ARMOR PIERCING AMMUNITION; USE OF**
18 **PERFORMANCE STANDARD.**

19 Section 921(a)(17) of title 18, United States Code,
20 is amended—

21 (1) in subparagraph (B)—

22 (A) by striking “or” at the end of clause
23 (i);

24 (B) by striking the period at the end of
25 clause (ii) and inserting a semicolon; and

1 (C) by adding at the end the following:

2 “(iii) a projectile which the Secretary has deter-
3 mined is substantially similar in design and manu-
4 facture to any ammunition which is or has been des-
5 ignated for use as armor piercing, armor piercing in-
6 cendiary, or armor piercing tracing by any military
7 or law enforcement authority of the United States;
8 or

9 “(iv) a projectile which the Secretary finds is
10 capable of penetrating the Executive Protection Ex-
11 emplar.”; and

12 (2) by adding at the end the following:

13 “(D)(i) Not later than 1 year after the date of the
14 enactment of this subparagraph, the Secretary shall pro-
15 mulgate standards for the uniform testing of projectiles
16 against the Executive Protection Exemplar. The standards
17 shall take into account, among other factors, the effective
18 range of firearms from which the projectile may be fired
19 and the nature of the propellants available for use.

20 “(ii) In this paragraph, the term ‘Executive Protec-
21 tion Exemplar’ means the minimum level of armor or
22 other protective material, including ballistic glass but not
23 including body armor, that the Secretary determines is es-
24 sential to the effective protection of law enforcement per-
25 sonnel and their public safety mission.”.

1 **SEC. 4. COVERAGE OF LASER SIGHTS AND LASER-SIGHT**
2 **EQUIPPED FIREARMS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The first sentence of section
4 5845(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (defining
5 firearm) is amended—

6 (1) by striking “and (8)” and inserting “(8),
7 and

8 (2) by inserting before the period “; (9) any
9 laser sight suitable for use as a sight for any firearm
10 (as defined in section 921(a)(3) of title 18, United
11 States Code); and (10) any firearm (as defined in
12 such section 921(a)(3)) on which any laser sight is
13 permanently mounted.”

14 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
15 this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment
16 of this Act.

17 **SEC. 5. REGULATION OF THE MANUFACTURE, IMPORTA-**
18 **TION, AND SALE OF PROJECTILES THAT MAY**
19 **BE USED IN A HANDGUN AND ARE CAPABLE**
20 **OF PENETRATING POLICE BODY ARMOR.**

21 (a) EXPANSION OF DEFINITION OF ARMOR PIERCING
22 AMMUNITION.—Section 921(a)(17)(B) of title 18, United
23 States Code, is amended—

24 (1) by striking “or” at the end of clause (iii);

25 (2) by striking the period at the end of clause

26 (iv) and inserting “; or”; and

1 (3) by adding at the end the following:

2 “(v) a projectile that may be used in a handgun
3 and that the Secretary determines, pursuant to sec-
4 tion 926(d), to be capable of penetrating body
5 armor.”.

6 (b) DETERMINATION OF THE CAPABILITY OF PRO-
7 JECTILES TO PENETRATE BODY ARMOR.—Section 926 of
8 such title is amended by adding at the end the following:

9 “(d)(1) Not later than 1 year after the date of the
10 enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall promul-
11 gate standards for the uniform testing of projectiles
12 against the Body Armor Exemplar, based on standards
13 developed in cooperation with the Attorney General of the
14 United States. Such standards shall take into account,
15 among other factors, variations in performance that are
16 related to the length of the barrel of the handgun from
17 which the projectile is fired and the amount and kind of
18 powder used to propel the projectile.

19 “(2) As used in paragraph (1), the term Body Armor
20 Exemplar’ means body armor that the Secretary, in co-
21 operation with the Attorney General of the United States,
22 determines meets minimum standards for protection of
23 law enforcement officers.”.

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