

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 935

To regulate .50 caliber sniper weapons designed for the taking of human life and the destruction of materiel, including armored vehicles and components of the Nation's critical infrastructure.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 28, 2005

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. CORZINE, and Mr. DURBIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To regulate .50 caliber sniper weapons designed for the taking of human life and the destruction of materiel, including armored vehicles and components of the Nation's critical infrastructure.

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the "Fifty Caliber Sniper
5 Weapons Regulation Act of 2005".

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Certain firearms originally designed and
2 built for use as long-range .50 caliber military sniper
3 weapons are increasingly being sold in the United
4 States civilian market.

5 (2) The intended use of these long-range fire-
6 arms, and an increasing number of models derived
7 directly from them, is the taking of human life and
8 the destruction of materiel, including armored vehi-
9 cles and components of the national critical infra-
10 structure, such as radar and microwave transmission
11 devices.

12 (3) These firearms are neither designed nor
13 used in any significant number for legitimate sport-
14 ing or hunting purposes and are clearly distinguish-
15 able from rifles intended for sporting and hunting
16 use.

17 (4) Extraordinarily destructive ammunition for
18 these weapons, including armor-piercing and armor-
19 piercing incendiary ammunition, is freely sold in
20 interstate commerce.

21 (5) The virtually unrestricted availability of
22 these firearms and ammunition, given the uses in-
23 tended in their design and manufacture, present a
24 serious and substantial threat to the national secu-
25 rity.

1 **SEC. 3. COVERAGE OF .50 CALIBER SNIPER WEAPONS**
2 **UNDER THE NATIONAL FIREARMS ACT.**

3 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 5845(a) of the Internal
4 Revenue Code of 1986 (defining firearm) is amended by
5 striking “(6) a machine gun; (7) any silencer (as defined
6 in section 921 of title 18, United States Code); and (8)
7 a destructive device.” and inserting “(6) a .50 caliber snip-
8 er weapon; (7) a machine gun; (8) any silencer (as defined
9 in section 921 of title 18, United States Code); and (9)
10 a destructive device.”.

11 (b) **DEFINITIONS.**—

12 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 5845 the Internal
13 Revenue Code of 1986 (defining terms relating to
14 firearms) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
15 lowing:

16 “(n) **FIFTY CALIBER SNIPER WEAPON.**—The term
17 ‘.50 caliber sniper weapon’ means a rifle capable of firing
18 a center-fire cartridge in .50 caliber, .50 BMG caliber, any
19 other variant of .50 caliber, or any metric equivalent of
20 such calibers.”.

21 (2) **MODIFICATION TO DEFINITION OF RIFLE.**—
22 Section 5845(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of
23 1986 (defining rifle) is amended by inserting “or
24 from a bipod or other support” after “shoulder”.

1 **SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

2 The amendments made by this Act shall only apply
3 to a .50 caliber sniper weapon made or transferred after
4 the date of enactment of this Act.

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