

Pistol Ban Continued . . .

And finally, it is obvious that none of the proponents know their rumpus-delecti from a hot rock with regards to the costs involved in manufacturing. They claim that the costs for applying the technology will be minimal – pennys to a few dolloars per gun. The manufacturers say it is closer to \$200 per gun, and that is why they will have no choice but to abandon the market. Californians, private citizens and cops, will be stuck with having no choice but to rely only on revolvers for their personal protection, competition, hunting and recreational needs. The rest of “free America” will continue to enjoy all manner of new pistols with greater advancements in technologies and calibers. But then, that just may be what the author and sponsors want...for now. How long before they go after revolvers too...

You can help to defeat AB 1471 by writing to Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and respectfully ask him to veto this bill.



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Related bills passed in 2007 Continued . . .

AB 334 (Levine-D) Firearms - Loss and Theft.
Position: oppose
Status: Sent to the Senate Inactive File – dead for 2007.

Summary: Expands the crimes YOU might commit by inadvertently not reporting a loss of a firearm to the proper authority. This bill includes the frame or receiver in the term “firearm” and carries the same offense if you fail to report its loss within 5 days.

AB 362 (De Leon-D) Ammunition: Vendor Registration, Registry, Sales and Delivery
Position: oppose (even though it has been gutted and turned into a study bill)
Status: Dead for 2007 but will be back in 2008.

Summary: On Tuesday, July 10, 2007, AB 362 was amended severely. The bill went from addressing Ammunition Vendors and their activities, to requiring a study and resultant report on the “feasibility of creating a system of licensing or registration ...of handgun ammunition sales.”

(Editor's note: For information on how to contact the Governor go to our website: www.gunownersca.com or write a respectful letter directly to him at: Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814. You can also call him at (916) 445-2841)

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New Pistol Ban is up to Governor Schwarzenegger

By Sam Paredes, Executive Director

AB 1471, by radical leftist Assemblyman Mike Feuer of West Hollywood, jumped its final hurdle on September 10, 2007 when the State Assembly passed it by a vote of 43 to 29. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger can sign it into law, veto it, or allow it to become law without his signature after 30 days.

Micro-stamping has been touted as a huge benefit to crime solving. When a criminal leaves micro-stamped cases at the scene of his dastardly deeds, investigators will be able to find out who owned the gun and trace it back to the criminal – or so we have been led to believe.

These are the facts.

Micro-stamping technology has been debunked by two separate studies. One conducted by a renowned firearms forensics specialist Professor George Krivosta, was published in the Journal of the Association of Firearms and Toolmark Examiners (AFTE), the foremost publication of firearms forensics specialists. The other was conducted by UC Davis researchers. Both studies came to the same conclusions -- micro-stamping is unreliable and easily defeated.

Micro-stamping, according to AB 1471, requires that pistols must be “designed and equipped with a microscopic array of characters that identify the make, model, and serial number of the pistol, etched or otherwise imprinted in two or more places on the interior surface or internal working parts of the pistol, and that are transferred by imprinting on each cartridge case when the firearm is fired,...”

First, we have the question of reliability of the markings themselves. Both studies indicated that the markings were unreliable.

Second, the bill calls for the laser engraving

to be applied to at least two parts of the firearm. The firing pin is one logical location. There is no other location on a pistol to apply the engraving so that it imparts the stamping on a fired case. It won't work in the chamber, the extractor or ejector. Nor will it work on the breach face. There is nothing left. Manufacturers can not comply with the law.

Third, Lizotte owns the patent. He stands to make millions as a government supported monopoly. Assemblyman Feuer made a feeble attempt to address this criticism by amending his bill to require the following: “...provided that the Department of Justice certifies that the technology used to create the imprint is available to more than one manufacturer unencumbered by any patent restrictions.” Lizotte claimed he would put the technology in the public domain if this bill passes. If the technology is so wonderful and Mr. Lizotte is so public minded, why doesn't he put the patent in the public domain without the passage of AB 1471? Also, even if Lizotte were magnanimous enough to put the technology in the public domain, he still stands to make millions on the sale of equipment to apply the technology. Estimates are that the machinery alone may cost millions. Always follow the money...

Fourth, federal law states that identifying marks placed on a firearm by the manufacturer cannot be removed under penalty of federal felony charges. Feuer tried to fend this off by again amending his bill to say the following:

“The microscopic array of characters required by this section shall not be considered the name of the maker, model, manufacturer's number, or other mark of identification, including any distinguishing number or mark assigned by the Department of Justice, within the meaning of Sections 12090 and 12094.”

If a manufacturer puts identifying marks on a firearm and someone removes them, it is a felony, no matter what a state chooses to call the markings. This means that if the markings wear out for any reason, due to brakeage, use or replacement, it is a federal felony!

Fifth, the states of New York and Maryland have been using ballistics imaging programs for several years and their experience is that they aren't working and have yet to log one single conviction based on them. Success is so dismal that the Maryland State Police has recommended that their system be repealed by the legislature. Whether micro-stamped or digitally fingerprinted, the result will be the same; a waste of precious law enforcement resources.

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Firearms Related Bills Passed By The Legislature In 2007

By Gwen Friesen

Throughout 2007, GOC has been working with laser-like focus to fight for our 2nd amendment rights in the California Legislature and the Administration. We must acknowledge the importance of the strong partnership we have developed with the California Rifle and Pistol Association, represented by Gerald Upholt, the National Shooting Sports Federation, Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers Institute and Safari Club International, all represented by Kathryn Lynch. Without this team, our progress would have been diminished.

The following bills affecting firearms owners were sent to the Governor for action in 2007:

High Priority Bills

AB 1471 (Feuer-D) Firearms: microstamping.
Position: veto requested, highest priority of all bills

Status: Governors desk

Summary: The Crime Gun Identification Act of 2007 - Would, commencing January 1, 2010, expand the definition of "unsafe handgun" to include semiautomatic pistols that are not designed and equipped with a microscopic array of characters that identify the make, model, and serial number of the pistol, etched in 2 or more places on the interior surface or internal working parts of the pistol, and that are transferred by imprinting on each cartridge case when the firearm is fired.

Any new semi-automatic pistol that is not so equipped will be placed on the "unsafe handgun" list that is regulated by the state. Handguns on the "unsafe list" cannot be sold in California.

With this one measure, selling of semi-auto pistols in California is in jeopardy, for gun manufacturers have all along strongly warned that this flawed, imperfect technology will cost them too much to retool and produce for just one state.

AB 1471 passed out of the Senate by ONE vote:

Yes Votes: Alquist, Calderon R, Cedillo, Corbett, Florez, Kehoe, Kuehl, Lowenthal, Machado, Migden, Oropeza, Padilla, Perata, Ridley-Thomas, Romero, Scott, Simitian, Steinberg, Torlakson,

Wiggins, and Yee (all Democrats).

No Votes: Aanestad, Ackerman, Ashburn, Battin, Cogdill, Correa, Cox, Denham, Ducheny-D, Dutton, Harman, Hollingsworth, Maldonado, Margett, McClintock, Runner G, and Wyland (all Republicans except one).

Not voting: Negrete McLeod and Vincent. (Not voting is considered as a "no" vote. Both Democrats)

AB 821 (Nava-D) Ridley-Tree Condor Preservation Act.

Position: veto requested

Status: Governors desk. The Department of Fish and Game is opposed to this bill pursuant to authorization from the Administration.

Summary: The Ridley-Tree Condor Preservation Act - Would require the use of non-lead centerfire rifle and pistol ammunition when taking big game, small game and varmints within the range of the California Condor. Would require the Fish and Game Commission to establish, by regulation, by July 1, 2008, a public process to certify centerfire rifle and pistol ammunition as non-lead ammunition, and to define non-lead ammunition by regulation. Would also require the commission, to the extent funding is available, to provide hunters within these areas with non-lead ammunition at no or reduced charge through a coupon program. A person who violates the requirements of the bill would be guilty of an infraction punishable by a \$500 fine for the first offense.

Let the Governor hear from all of the gun owners in the state of California and ask for a VETO of these onerous bills. Not only will AB 1471 affect citizen gun owners, but law enforcement, and in AB-821 there is ominous fiscal impact on the state as well.

Other Bills of interest

AB 805 (Galgiani-D) Firearms.

Position: support

Status: 07/27/2007-Chaptered by the Secretary of State, Chapter Number 139, Statutes of 2007

Summary: Will delete the existing requirement that a peace officer's address appear on their

license to carry concealed handguns.

AB 854 (Keene-R) Firearms.

Position: support

Status: 07/30/2007-Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter No. 163, Statutes of 2007

Summary: Will provide exceptions to various requirements in connection with the transfer of firearms, including loans, to consultant-evaluators.

AB 1645 (LaMalfa-R) Emergency powers: firearms.

Position: support

Status: Governors desk

Summary: Would provide that the laws relating to the governments powers during an emergency do not authorize the seizure or confiscation of any firearm or ammunition by the government from any individual who is lawfully carrying or possessing such firearm or ammunition.

This measure restricts the power of officials to seize or confiscate firearms or ammunition from lawful citizens during an emergency situation. It brings California into line with the new federal law.

The bill is on the Governor's desk. You can have a part by contacting the Governor and supporting AB 1645 by encouraging his signature.

SB 248 (Padilla-D) Firearms.

Position: watch

Status: Governors desk

Summary: Would authorize local law enforcement agencies to have specified information from crime scenes related to firearms entered into the United States Department of Justice, National Integrated Ballistic Information Network to ensure that representative samples of fired bullets and cartridge cases from crime scenes are recorded. The bill would require the Attorney General to develop a protocol by July 1, 2008, to implement the provisions authorizing the entering of this information.

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So, Who are the Real Wildlife Conservationists?

By GOC Staff

Recently, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger was criticized by radical environmentalists for strongly encouraging Fish and Game Commissioner Judd Hanna to resign. Judd Hanna came under the scrutiny of Republican legislators by his behavior in personally working to sway the Commission's mindset on the issue of banning lead bullets. In essence, he became a lobbyist instead of an unbiased commissioner waiting to hear information from all of the stake-holders and then making a considered position.

The Governor was accused of attempting to "undermine the commission" and of being a pawn of the NRA legislators and Republican Senators. Republican Senators were dubbed as "far-right" and "anti-conservation".

All of this animosity and name calling comes from one Jeff Miller, who is with the Center for Biological Diversity. The Center originally petitioned the California Fish and Game Commission in 2005 to ban lead bullets. After hearings, the Commission rejected the Center's proposals because the evidence did not conclude convincingly that lead ammunition led to the Condors deaths.

Shortly there after, the Center attempted to get a lead bullet ban through legislation. The measure did not pass the legislature in either 2005 or 2006. These failures precipitated a threat to sue the Fish and Game Department and the Commission, and a letter of intent to sue was sent in August of 2006 to both.

In 2007, Assemblyman Nava again introduced a bill to ban lead bullets in California condor country. It passed the legislature and rests on the Governors desk. Last week, the Fish and Game Commission asked Governor Schwarzenegger, via letter, to VETO AB 821. The letter points out that the legislation is flawed and that signing of the bill will put the Commission in the position of not being in control of that which is their purpose, regulating and managing fish and species of wildlife.

The Center and its spokesman Jeff Miller are in a panic mode, for they see that the years of work they have put in to their environmental

measure is endangered. The hunting community has worked long and hard to bring sense and true consideration to this issue.

(Editor's Note: We encourage the Governor to exercise his VETO pen on AB 821. We encourage our members and all other gun owners to call the Governor as well.)

As long as the proponents of the lead ammo ban continue to run roughshod over the hunting community, whom by the way are the folks that provide ALL of the funding for wildlife management through their licenses, stamps and excise taxes, this issue will continue to be contentious. The hunting community has offered a reasonable solution that would achieve everyone's goals. That goal is to disrupt the pathway of lead to condors. This can be achieved by requiring an option to hunters to either hunt with non-lead ammunition or bury their gut-piles to prevent condor's access to them. In this manner hunters would be active participants in the process.

Here are things to consider: (1) The requirement of non-lead ammo use is unenforceable in that it is almost impossible for someone to tell the difference between ammo containing lead and non-lead ammo; (2) There are only 5 Game Wardens in the state who would be charged with enforcing the ban in an area approaching 1/10th of the huntable portion of California (approx. 30,000 hunters); (3) There will be resentment from hunters because they will be forced to use ammunition that is far more expensive than normal and often times is so inaccurate in many firearms that hunters are not willing to hunt with these cartridges because they cannot guarantee an ethical kill; (4) Given the option though, hunters will participate in a program that gives them a choice; (5) If they can choose to use non-lead ammo or bury their gut-piles hunters will participate and all good things will happen.

Last year, the hunting community was asked to meet with the condor folks to talk about the problem. We met and discussed the solution mentioned here. We were operating on good faith and expected to continue our discussion. Instead of continued discussions and the development of an action plan, we were given the proverbial finger

and a lawsuit was filed by the condor folks, then, a bill was sponsored to ban lead ammunition. At this point our suspicions were raised that the endgame for these folks is really an outright ban on hunting. We will not stand for that.

So, who are the real wildlife conservationists? Read the following as reported by our friends at the National Shooting Sports Foundation:

\$70 MILLION FOR CONSERVATION . . . From January through March alone, \$70 million was generated for conservation nationwide by gun owners, hunters and sportsmen, compared to \$61 million during the same period in 2006.

And, how much do the preservationists contribute? ZERO.

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