Senator COURTNEY (Presession filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure as introduced.

Urges Congress to enact legislation to define and regulate semiautomatic assault weapons and rapid fire enhancing accessories in same manner as fully automatic weapons, and to define and regulate partially completed firearms components and kits and firearms that are assembled from them.

JOINT MEMORIAL

To the President of the United States and the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled:

We, your memorialists, the Seventy-ninth Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, in legislative session assembled, respectfully represent as follows:

Whereas civilian possession of new fully automatic weapons that reload automatically and fire continuously with one trigger pull is prohibited under the federal Firearm Owners' Protection Act of 1986; and

Whereas semiautomatic rifles that reload automatically, but fire only once per trigger pull, may be lawfully purchased by eligible residents of the United States; and

Whereas an individual must pass a National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) check prior to the purchase of any firearm in America; and

Whereas eligible residents of the United States who have passed a NICS check may purchase semiautomatic assault weapons—firearms designed to accept large, detachable magazines of ammunition and configured for rapid fire and combat use; and

Whereas design features of semiautomatic assault weapons include a folding or telescoping stock, a pistol grip that protrudes conspicuously beneath the action of the weapon, barrel shrouds, bayonet mounts and a threaded barrel capable of accepting flash suppressors; and

Whereas eight states define and regulate or ban semiautomatic assault weapons, and the federal Public Safety and Recreational Firearms Use Protection Act of 1994 prohibited the manufacture of semiautomatic assault weapons for civilian use across the nation; and

Whereas the federal ban on the sale of semiautomatic assault weapons expired on September 13, 2004, and since that time, more than 400 individuals have been killed or wounded in mass shooting events involving firearms that would have been prohibited; and

Whereas numerous accessories are manufactured to enhance the performance of firearms, including the bump stock, determined to be a firearms part by the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives in 2010; and

Whereas a bump stock alters the speed at which an individual can pull the trigger of a firearm so that, although only one bullet is fired with each trigger pull, the bump stock significantly speeds up the trigger pull, making the weapon fire essentially like a fully automatic weapon; and

NOTE: Matter in boldfaced type in an amended section is new; matter [italic and bracketed] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in boldfaced type.

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Whereas a firearm equipped with a bump stock can fire as many as 800 rounds per minute, and
a semiautomatic weapon equipped with a bump stock is not readily distinguishable from a fully au-
tomatic weapon, yet bump stocks can be purchased without a NICS check; and
Whereas 58 people were killed and more than 500 injured in the recent shooting in Las Vegas,
Nevada, and the high fatality and injury rates were caused, in part, by the shooter’s use of bump
stocks on several semiautomatic assault weapons; and
Whereas sellers of partially completed firearms components and kits, or “ghost guns,” are not
required to be firearms dealers, and purchasers of such kits are not required to undergo NICS
checks; and
Whereas firearms completed from ghost gun kits do not have serial numbers, unlike all fully
assembled firearms; and
Whereas in November 2017 a man who was prohibited by law from purchasing or possessing
firearms purchased partially completed firearms from an online seller, finished assembling the
firearms and used those firearms to kill his wife and four others and attempted to fire upon children
in an elementary school; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:

That we, the members of the Seventy-ninth Legislative Assembly, respectfully urge the Congress
of the United States of America to enact legislation to define and regulate semiautomatic assault
weapons and rapid fire enhancing accessories, such as bump stocks, in the same manner as fully
automatic weapons; and be it further

Resolved, That we urge Congress to enact legislation expanding the definition of “firearms” to
include the unfinished frame or receiver of a weapon that can be readily converted to the functional
condition of a finished frame or receiver, requiring background checks on the sale or transfer of
partially completed firearms kits, requiring application for and engraving or stamping of a serial
number on any completed firearm within 30 days of its assembly and prohibiting the transfer of a
completed firearm without a serial number and background check; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this memorial shall be sent to the President of the United States, to
the Senate Majority Leader, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and to each member
of the Oregon Congressional Delegation.