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 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; 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

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 automatic 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

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 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 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.