

A RESOLUTION

24-294

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

November 16, 2021

To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to amend the Firearms Control Regulations Act of 1975 to clarify requirements involving ghost guns and permit the possession of properly serialized self-manufactured firearms, and to make conforming amendments; and to amend An Act To control the possession, sale, transfer, and use of pistols and other dangerous weapons in the District of Columbia, to provide penalties, to prescribe rules of evidence, and for other purposes to provide that the Chief of Police shall not approve an application for a license to carry a pistol for any firearm that was self-manufactured and registered in the District.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Ghost Gun Clarification Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2021”.

Sec. 2. (a) In keeping with public safety, District law prohibits the possession and registration of firearms that are undetectable and untraceable, referred to as “ghost guns”. Statutory provisions governing the licensing of firearms businesses also prohibit the manufacture of firearms, destructive devices, and ammunition.

(b) These ghost gun and manufacturing prohibitions have been challenged in federal court as inconsistent with the Second Amendment.

(c) There exists an immediate need to clarify District laws concerning ghost guns, and the existing manufacturing prohibition, to ensure that they do not reach lawful serialized firearms and to expressly provide that a person may lawfully register and possess self-manufactured firearms that are properly serialized.

(d) The Ghost Gun Clarification Emergency Amendment Act of 2021 is intended to fill this need by clarifying existing definitions, clarifying the manufacturing prohibition, supplying a registration process for self-manufactured firearms that are properly serialized, and making appropriate conforming amendments.

Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the Ghost Gun Clarification Emergency Amendment Act of 2021 be adopted after a single reading.

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.