

# Senate Joint Memorial 201

Sponsored by 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

1  
2 To the President of the United States and the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United  
3 States of America, in Congress assembled:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 Whereas the federal ban on the sale of semiautomatic assault weapons expired on September  
23 13, 2004, and since that time, more than 400 individuals have been killed or wounded in mass  
24 shooting events involving firearms that would have been prohibited; and

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

28 Whereas a bump stock alters the speed at which an individual can pull the trigger of a firearm  
29 so that, although only one bullet is fired with each trigger pull, the bump stock significantly speeds  
30 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.

1       Whereas a firearm equipped with a bump stock can fire as many as 800 rounds per minute, and  
2 a semiautomatic weapon equipped with a bump stock is not readily distinguishable from a fully au-  
3 tomatic weapon, yet bump stocks can be purchased without a NICS check; and

4       Whereas 58 people were killed and more than 500 injured in the recent shooting in Las Vegas,  
5 Nevada, and the high fatality and injury rates were caused, in part, by the shooter's use of bump  
6 stocks on several semiautomatic assault weapons; and

7       Whereas sellers of partially completed firearms components and kits, or "ghost guns," are not  
8 required to be firearms dealers, and purchasers of such kits are not required to undergo NICS  
9 checks; and

10       Whereas firearms completed from ghost gun kits do not have serial numbers, unlike all fully  
11 assembled firearms; and

12       Whereas in November 2017 a man who was prohibited by law from purchasing or possessing  
13 firearms purchased partially completed firearms from an online seller, finished assembling the  
14 firearms and used those firearms to kill his wife and four others and attempted to fire upon children  
15 in an elementary school; now, therefore,

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

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

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

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

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