

Erik Perkins
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LD 2086

Dear Judiciary Committee,

I have a few comments on LD 2086. The version of this bill which is available on the legislature website seems to be an unobjectionable streamlining of procedures for handling firearms taken from criminals. I have no strong opinion either way about that version.

However, there is apparently a draft amendment which I strongly object to. Part 2.D.1 of the amendment expands the definition of a machine gun to include any modification which increases the rate of fire of a semiautomatic firearm. This would appear to include match-grade triggers, since they can reduce the time taken to complete a single shot by several milliseconds, measurably increasing the potential rate of fire by several percent. Precision triggers with finely-tuned sear engagement, optimized springs, light hammers, etc. are very common, used ubiquitously for hunting, competition, and self-defense. A 1911 pistol with a trigger job is not a machine gun.

There are modifications to semiautomatic firearms which actually are frequently used in crime, like Glock switches. These devices are generically known as "autosears", and all sorts of actual machine guns have them. They are also already extremely illegal to own without a lot of ATF paperwork and a lot of money.

Getting a case of the vapors over firing rate is kind of silly anyway. A person can only shoot as fast as they can aim. "Rapid fire from the hip" is another way to spell "miss". Moreover, the inclusion of an amendment wholly unrelated to the subject of LD 2086 is unprofessional, middle-school-level legerdemain. The amendment may as well also include a mandate for chewing spruce gum on Tuesdays.

Thank you,
Erik Perkins
Mattawamkeag