

107TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3182

To regulate certain 50 caliber sniper weapons in the same manner as machine guns and other firearms.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 30, 2001

Mr. BLAGOJEVICH (for himself and Mr. WAXMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To regulate certain 50 caliber sniper weapons in the same manner as machine guns and other firearms.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Trooper Timothy  
5 Mossbruker Memorial Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds that—

8 (1) certain firearms originally designed and  
9 built for use as long-range 50 caliber military sniper

1 weapons are increasingly sold in the domestic civil-  
2 ian market, and there are fewer legal restrictions on  
3 their possession or transfer than there are on hand-  
4 guns;

5 (2) the intended use of these long-range fire-  
6 arms, and an increasing number of models derived  
7 directly from them, is the taking of human life and  
8 the destruction of materiel, including armored vehi-  
9 cles and such components of the national critical in-  
10 frastructure as radars and microwave transmission  
11 devices;

12 (3) these firearms are neither designed nor used  
13 in any significant number for legitimate sporting or  
14 hunting purposes and are clearly distinguishable  
15 from rifles intended for sporting and hunting use;

16 (4) extraordinarily destructive ammunition for  
17 these weapons, including armor-piercing and armor-  
18 piercing incendiary ammunition, is freely sold in  
19 interstate commerce; and

20 (5) the virtually unrestricted availability of  
21 these firearms and ammunition, given the uses in-  
22 tended in their design and manufacture, present a  
23 serious and substantial threat to the national secu-  
24 rity.

1 **SEC. 3. COVERAGE OF 50 CALIBER SNIPER WEAPONS**  
2 **UNDER NATIONAL FIREARMS ACT.**

3 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subsection (a) of section 5845 of  
4 the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (defining firearm) is  
5 amended by striking “(6) a machine gun; (7) any silencer  
6 (as defined in section 921 of title 18, United States Code);  
7 and (8) a destructive device.” and inserting “(6) a 50 cal-  
8 iber sniper weapon; (7) a machine gun; (8) any silencer  
9 (as defined in section 921 of title 18, United States Code);  
10 and (9) a destructive device.”

11 (b) **50 CALIBER SNIPER WEAPON.**—

12 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 5845 of such Code  
13 is amended by redesignating subsections (d) through  
14 (m) as subsections (e) through (n), respectively, and  
15 by inserting after subsection (e) the following new  
16 subsection:

17 “(d) **50 CALIBER SNIPER WEAPON.**—The term ‘50  
18 caliber sniper weapon’ means a rifle capable of firing a  
19 center-fire cartridge in 50 caliber, .50 BMG caliber, any  
20 other variant of 50 caliber, or any metric equivalent of  
21 such calibers.”

22 (2) **MODIFICATION TO DEFINITION OF RIFLE.**—  
23 Subsection (c) of section 5845 of such Code is  
24 amended by inserting “or from a bipod or other sup-  
25 port” after “shoulder”.

1 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
2 this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment  
3 of this Act.

4 **SEC. 4. COVERAGE OF 50 CALIBER SNIPER WEAPONS**  
5 **UNDER THE GUN CONTROL ACT OF 1968.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 922 of title 18, United  
7 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
8 lowing:

9 “(z)(1) It shall be unlawful for any person to transfer  
10 or possess a 50 caliber sniper weapon.

11 “(2) Paragraph (1) shall not apply with respect to—

12 “(A) a transfer to or by, or possession by or  
13 under the authority of, the United States or any de-  
14 partment or agency thereof or a State, or a depart-  
15 ment, agency, or political subdivision thereof; or

16 “(B) any otherwise lawful transfer or otherwise  
17 lawful possession of a 50 caliber sniper weapon that  
18 was lawfully possessed before the date this sub-  
19 section takes effect.”.

20 (b) 50 CALIBER SNIPER WEAPON DEFINED.—Sec-  
21 tion 921(a) of such title is amended by adding at the end  
22 the following:

23 “(35) The term ‘50 caliber sniper weapon’ has the  
24 meaning given such term in section 5845(d) of the Na-  
25 tional Firearms Act (26 U.S.C. 5845(d)).”.

1           (c) PENALTIES.—Section 924(a)(2) of such title is  
2 amended by striking “or (o)” and inserting “(o), or (z)”.

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