

HB 361 -- MISSOURI FIREARMS FREEDOM ACT

SPONSOR: Leara

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Committee on General Laws by a vote of 8 to 4.

This bill establishes the Missouri Firearms Freedom Act. In its main provisions, the bill:

- (1) Asserts the right of the State of Missouri to regulate the intrastate use and acquisition of certain firearms pursuant to the reserved powers of the state over intrastate commerce and the right to keep and bear arms;
- (2) Specifies that certain personal firearms, firearm accessories, or ammunition manufactured in Missouri and that remain in Missouri will not be subject to federal law or regulation;
- (3) Exempts firearms made for multiple person use; machine guns; firearms that use smokeless powder, not black powder, and have a bore diameter greater than one and one-half inches; and ammunition with a projectile that explodes using an explosion of chemical energy after the projectile leaves the firearm from the provisions of the bill and subjects them to federal regulation; and
- (4) Requires a firearm manufactured or sold in Missouri under the provisions of the bill to bear the words "Made in Missouri" clearly stamped on a central metallic part.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2012, FY 2013, and FY 2014.

PROponents: Supporters say that the federal government is overreaching its authority and the bill will reassert state sovereignty by stating that the federal government cannot regulate the intrastate sale of firearms. These provisions will help Missouri firearm manufacturers.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Leara; Sheila Stokes-Begley; National Rifle Association-Institute for Legislative Action; and Missouri Family Network.

OPponents: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.