



Proposed Assault Weapon Ban for 2007: What Was Old Is New Again (and Then Some)

HOW WOULD THE PROPOSED BAN AFFECT OTHER GUNS?

The focus of the ban is on reinstating and expanding the ban on "semi-automatic assault weapons." The bill has a much expanded list of specifically named semi-automatic rifles that are banned, which now includes the Ruger Mini-14, the Hi-Point Carbine, and the Kel-Tec Sub Rifle. The ban includes copies of any named rifles, together with any semi-automatic rifle that has a detachable magazine (of any size), and any one of the following "evil" features: a folding or telescoping stock, a threaded barrel, a pistol grip, a forward grip, or a barrel shroud. The prior ban permitted any two "evil" features, but apparently that did not ban enough evil looking rifles to suit the gun control crowd. Furthermore, any semi-automatic pistol with a detachable magazine and a second pistol grip, a threaded barrel, a barrel shroud, or the ability to accept a magazine at any location outside of the pistol grip, is banned.

Also very troubling (perhaps because of the inherent ambiguity) is the ban on any semi-automatic rifle or shotgun "originally designed for military or law enforcement use" that is not particularly suitable for sporting purposes, as determined by the Attorney General. The bill even makes it clear that the mere fact that a particular rifle is used for some sports is not conclusive that the rifle is suitable for sporting purposes.


The bill also bans a "conversion kit," or any collection of parts designed to convert a firearm into a semi-automatic assault weapon. This provision is very troubling because it could make certain gun parts or combinations of parts (such as collapsible stocks, pistol grips, or vertical foregrips) illegal to possess, separate and apart from the firearm itself.

Perhaps the most sweeping changes in the new version of the AWB are the severe restrictions on the transfer of "grandfathered" assault weapons. You will be able to continue to possess



"banned" weapons that you owned prior to the ban. However, the sale of any such assault weapons will have to be conducted through a licensed FFL; i.e., no more private sales. While many people may question how such a law would be enforced, an illegal private sale may earn you a ten year sentence in a federal prison.

THE BOTTOM LINE

This 2007 version of the AWB may not become law this time around. With any luck, H.R. 1022 will die a silent death in committee before this issue hits your mailbox. However, at the very least, this bill should be a wake-up call for those of us who value our Second Amendment rights. The AWB concept is far from dead and gone in the hearts and minds of our Democratic Congress. There is no doubt that many democrats would see H.R. 1022 as a "refinement" and continuation of the 1994 ban. I see it as a major new step toward disarming private citizens. If we are not vigilant in protecting our rights, some version of an AWB will be back, and it will be far more restrictive than the previous ban. And make no mistake; the ultimate goal of the anti-gun crowd is not just to ban evil looking "assault weapons." The goal is to get all of your firearms. Only when you are completely disarmed will Representative McCarthy and her cronies feel safe. How safe will you feel? 

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When the Clinton era Assault Weapon Ban of 1994 expired in 2004, many of us suspected this day was coming. When the democrats took control of Congress following the 2006 elections, many of us knew this was coming. The gun grabbers have their sights set on your Second Amendment rights again. U.S. Representative, Carolyn McCarthy (D-New York), has introduced H.R. 1022, which reinstates the provisions of the 1994 ban, but with some new twists that make the ban far more onerous than its last incarnation.

HOW WOULD THE PROPOSED BAN AFFECT CONCEALED CARRY GUNS?

Our primary focus at CCM is on concealed carry handguns. The 2007 version of the Assault Weapon Ban ("AWB") doesn't appear to have any significant new restrictions on your average handgun. However, the proposed legislation will reinstate the ban on "large capacity ammunition feeding devices," which is legal-speak for magazines with a capacity of more than 10 rounds. Obviously, this affects a large number of carry guns. Even many compact 9mm pistols are designed to accept magazines with more than 10 rounds. Of course, the ban won't make the guns themselves illegal, just the "large capacity" magazines.

Many of you will recall that even toward the end of the 1994 AWB, "large capacity" magazines were still readily available if you were willing to pay a premium for them. This apparently annoyed the anti-gun lobby, which has added restrictions to the new ban to prevent the import of "pre-ban" magazines, and to further complicate the sale of "pre-ban" magazines once the ban is in effect.