

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: May 7, 2003
POSITION: No position

BILL NUMBER: AB 50
AUTHOR: P. Koretz

BILL SUMMARY: .50 Caliber BMG Rifles

This bill would amend provisions related to the possession, sale, manufacture, or transportation of .50 caliber BMG rifles, as specified.

FISCAL SUMMARY

The requirements of this bill would allow the Department of Justice (DOJ) to charge a fee for dangerous weapon permit registration of up to twenty-five dollars (\$25) per person, but not to exceed the actual processing costs of the department. The DOJ estimates that they will incur one-time costs of \$90,750 Dealer's Record of Sale Account (DROS) in 2003-04, with ongoing costs of \$1,000 DROS annually to implement the requirements of this bill. The one-time costs would be related to the processing of an estimated 3,600 .50 caliber registrations (\$30,000), 50 Dangerous Weapon (DW) permits (\$750), and data processing (\$60,000) to create a new record type in the firearms information system for .50 caliber BMG rifles. Fees would cover these costs. Ongoing costs for DW permits would total \$750. The DOJ indicates that they arrived at this estimate by assuming that each applicant for a .50 caliber BMG permit is a person who already has another DOJ-issued DW permit that is renewed annually at \$88. The annual cost for each additional DW permit is \$15.

The DOJ also indicates that there may be some one-time costs related to a Public Education Campaign to notify firearms dealers and .50 caliber gun owners of the new law, and to adopt regulations relative to the registration process, procedures, and setting of fees. The DOJ estimates these costs to be minor and absorbable.

As the requirement of this measure would expand the scope of existing crimes and sentence enhancements, this bill would impose a State-mandated local program. However, any local government costs resulting from the mandate in this measure would not be State-reimbursable because the mandate only involves the definition of a crime or the penalty for conviction of a crime.

COMMENTS

Existing law provides that it is a crime to commit an assault upon any person, peace officer, or firefighter with a machinegun or assault weapon, as specified.

- This bill would expand each of these offenses to include an assault with a .50 BMG rifle, as defined.

Existing law also establishes the Prohibited Armed Persons File database which tracks possession or ownership of firearms and assault weapons, as specified.

- This bill would provide for tracking possession and ownership of .50 BMG rifles in the database, as specified.

(Continued)

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Governor's Office:	By:	Date:	Position Noted _____
			Position Approved _____
			Position Disapproved _____

BILL ANALYSIS

Form DF-43 (Rev 03/95 Buff)

P. Koretz

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COMMENTS (continued)

Existing law makes it an offense for any person to manufacture or cause to be manufactured, import into this state, keep for sale, offer or expose for sale, give, lend, or possess a variety of specified dangerous weapons and items, including assault weapons, and provides a sentence enhancement for anyone who transfers, lends, sells, or gives an assault weapon to a minor, as specified.

- This bill would extend those provisions to include any .50 BMG rifle or cartridges, as defined.

Existing law also authorizes the DOJ to issue permits for the possession, transportation, or sale between a licensed firearms dealer and an out-of-state client of large-capacity magazines and provides for the registration and issuance of permits in connection with assault weapons.

- This bill would extend those provisions to include .50 BMG cartridges, as defined, establish similar provisions for the registration and issuance of permits in connection with .50 BMG rifles, and authorize the DOJ to charge a registration fee not exceeding \$25 for the registration of a .50 BMG rifle, as specified.

Existing law defines "assault weapon" for purposes of regulation.

- This bill would define ".50 BMG rifle" and ".50 BMG cartridge" for purposes of regulation.

Existing law forbids the broadcast over police radio of information that an individual has registered, or has a permit to possess, an assault weapon, with specified exceptions.

- This bill would expand those provisions to cover individuals who register or have permits to possess .50 BMG rifles.

Existing law also provides that persons may arrange to relinquish an assault weapon to a police or sheriff's department.

- This bill would permit persons to arrange to relinquish a .50 BMG rifles to police or sheriff's departments, as specified.

Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	SO LA CO RV	PROP 98	FC	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)				Fund Code
				2002-2003		2003-2004		
				FC	FC	FC	FC	
0820/Justice	SO	No		--	C	\$91	C	\$1 0460
1257/Othr Reg Lic	RV	No		--	U	\$91	U	\$1 0460
<u>Fund Code</u>	<u>Title</u>							
0460	Dealers' Record of Sale Acct							

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