



OFFICE OF ASSEMBLYMEMBER

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TENTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

AB 1664- Closing the Bullet Button Loophole

SUMMARY

AB 1664 closes the bullet button loophole that permits the sale of military-style assault rifles in California. Specifically, AB 1664 amends the definition of an "assault weapon" to include weapons equipped with the "bullet button" or other tool that allows for easily changeable magazines.

The bill also requires current lawful owners of assault weapons enabled with bullet buttons to register their firearms by July 1, 2018.

EXISTING LAW/BACKGROUND

The Roberti-Roos Assault Weapons Control Act of 1989, and subsequent enhancements in 1999 and 2004, banned assault weapons in California.

These laws define prohibited assault weapons to include firearms that have both the capacity to accept a detachable magazine and one of a list of specific military-style features.

The law, however, does not define the term "detachable magazine."

Unfortunately, current regulations define "detachable magazine" in a manner that runs counter to the spirit of the state's assault weapons law.

Under the regulations, if any "tool," including a bullet, is required to release a firearm's magazine, then the weapon does not fall within the scope of the ban.

As a way to circumvent the law, firearm manufacturers developed a new feature, the bullet button, to make military-style weapons compliant in California.

The bullet button allows a shooter to use a bullet or other tool to quickly detach and replace the gun's ammunition magazine.

Because the use of a bullet or other "tool" is required to remove the magazine, the magazine is not considered detachable making the firearm legal. However, these guns are functionally operating in the same manner as illegal assault weapons.

An assault weapon's ability to accept detachable magazines allows a shooter to quickly reload the firearm and cause mass damage.

Bullet button equipped rifles were used in the San Bernardino mass shooting last month and a shooting at Los Angeles International Airport in 2013.

The development of the bullet button clearly exploits California law and allows dangerous weapons on our streets.

THIS BILL

AB 1664 clarifies and strengthens the definition of an assault weapon.



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SUPPORT

All Saints Pasadena Gun Violence Prevention
Task Force

Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence,
California Chapters

California Chapter of the American College of
Emergency Physicians

City of Long Beach

City of Santa Monica

Cleveland School Remembers

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Laguna Woods Democratic Club

Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence

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