Public Law 99–408
99th Congress

An Act

To amend chapter 44, of title 18, United States Code, to regulate the manufacture, importation, and sale of armor piercing ammunition, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 921(a)(17) of title 18 of the United States Code is redesignated as section 921(a)(17)(A), and a new subparagraph (B) is added to section 921(a)(17) to read as follows:

"(B) The term ‘armor piercing ammunition’ means a projectile or projectile core which may be used in a handgun and which is constructed entirely (excluding the presence of traces of other substances) from one or a combination of tungsten alloys, steel, iron, brass, bronze, beryllium copper, or depleted uranium. Such term does not include shotgun shot required by Federal or State environmental or game regulations for hunting purposes, a frangible projectile designed for target shooting, a projectile which the Secretary finds is primarily intended to be used for sporting purposes, or any other projectile or projectile core which the Secretary finds is intended to be used for industrial purposes, including a charge used in an oil and gas well perforating device."

SEC. 2. Section 922(a) of title 18 of the United States Code is amended—

(a) by striking out "and" at the end of paragraph (5);
(b) by striking out the period at the end of paragraph (6) and inserting in lieu thereof a semicolon; and
(c) by adding after paragraph (6) the following:

"(7) for any person to manufacture or import armor piercing ammunition, except that this paragraph shall not apply to—

"(A) the manufacture or importation of such ammunition for the use of the United States or any department or agency thereof or any State or any department, agency, or political subdivision thereof;
"(B) the manufacture of such ammunition for the purpose of exportation; and
"(C) any manufacture or importation for the purposes of testing or experimentation authorized by the Secretary; and

"(8) for any manufacturer or importer to sell or deliver armor piercing ammunition, except that this paragraph shall not apply to—

"(A) the sale or delivery by a manufacturer or importer of such ammunition for use of the United States or any department or agency thereof or any State or any department, agency, or political subdivision thereof;
"(B) the sale or delivery by a manufacturer or importer of such ammunition for the purpose of exportation;
“(C) the sale or delivery by a manufacturer or importer of such ammunition for the purposes of testing or experiment-
ing authorized by the Secretary.”

Sec. 3. Subparagraph (A) of section 923(a)(1) of title 18 of the United States Code is amended to read as follows:
“(A) of destructive devices, ammunition for destructive de-

Sec. 4. Subparagraph (C) of section 923(a)(1) of title 18 of the United States Code is amended to read as follows:
“(C) of ammunition for firearms, other than ammunition for
destructive devices or armor piercing ammunition, a fee of $10 per year.”.

Sec. 5. Subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 923(a)(2) of title 18 of

Sec. 6. Section 923(e) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by

Sec. 7. Section 923 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by

Sec. 8. Section 929 of title 18 of the United States Code is

Sec. 9. The amendments made by this Act shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act, except that sections 3, 4, and 5 shall

take effect on the first day of the first calendar month which begins more than ninety days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

Sec. 10. For purposes of section 921(a)(17)(B) of title 18, United States Code, as added by the first section of this Act, "handgun" means any firearm including a pistol or revolver designed to be fired by the use of a single hand. The term also includes any combination of parts from which a handgun can be assembled.

Approved August 28, 1986.