

106TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 193

To apply the same quality and safety standards to domestically manufactured handguns that are currently applied to imported handguns.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 19, 1999

Mrs. BOXER introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To apply the same quality and safety standards to domestically manufactured handguns that are currently applied to imported handguns.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “American Handgun  
5 Standards Act of 1999”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress finds that—

8               (1) the Gun Control Act of 1968 prohibited the  
9       importation of handguns that failed to meet mini-  
10      mum quality and safety standards;

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1           (2) the Gun Control Act of 1968 did not impose  
2           any quality and safety standards on domestically  
3           produced handguns;

4           (3) domestically produced handguns are specifi-  
5           cally exempted from oversight by the Consumer  
6           Product Safety Commission and are not required to  
7           meet any quality and safety standards;

8           (4) each year—

9                   (A) gunshots kill more than 35,000 Ameri-  
10                  cans and wound approximately 250,000;

11                  (B) approximately 75,000 Americans are  
12                  hospitalized for the treatment of gunshot  
13                  wounds;

14                  (C) Americans spend more than \$20 billion  
15                  for the medical treatment of gunshot wounds;  
16                  and

17                  (D) gun violence costs the United States  
18                  economy a total of \$135 billion;

19           (5) the disparate treatment of imported hand-  
20           guns and domestically produced handguns has led to  
21           the creation of a high-volume market for junk guns,  
22           defined as those handguns that fail to meet the  
23           quality and safety standards required of imported  
24           handguns;

1           (6) traffic in junk guns constitutes a serious  
2           threat to public welfare and to law enforcement offi-  
3           cers;

4           (7) junk guns are used disproportionately in the  
5           commission of crimes; and

6           (8) the domestic manufacture, transfer, and  
7           possession of junk guns should be restricted.

8   **SEC. 3. DEFINITION OF JUNK GUN.**

9           Section 921(a) of title 18, United States Code, is  
10          amended by adding at the end the following:

11           “(35) The term ‘junk gun’ means any handgun  
12          that does not meet the standard imposed on im-  
13          ported handguns as described in section 925(d)(3),  
14          and any regulations issued under such section.”.

15   **SEC. 4. RESTRICTION ON MANUFACTURE, TRANSFER, AND**  
16                   **POSSESSION OF CERTAIN HANDGUNS.**

17          Section 922 of title 18, United States Code, is  
18          amended by inserting after subsection (y) the following:

19           “(z)(1) Subject to paragraph (2), it shall be unlawful  
20          for a person to manufacture, transfer, or possess a junk  
21          gun that has been shipped or transported in interstate or  
22          foreign commerce.

23           “(2) Paragraph (1) does not apply to—

24           “(A) the possession or transfer of a junk gun  
25          otherwise lawfully possessed under Federal law on

1 the date of the enactment of the American Handgun  
2 Standards Act of 1999;

3 “(B) a firearm or replica of a firearm that has  
4 been rendered permanently inoperative;

5 “(C)(i) the manufacture for, transfer to, or pos-  
6 session by, the United States or a State or a depart-  
7 ment or agency of the United States, or a State of  
8 a department, agency, or political subdivision of a  
9 State, of a junk gun; or

10 “(ii) the transfer to, or possession by, a law en-  
11 forcement officer employed by an entity referred to  
12 in clause (i) of a junk gun for law enforcement pur-  
13 poses (whether on or off-duty);

14 “(D) the transfer to, or possession by, a rail po-  
15 lice officer employed by a rail carrier and certified  
16 or commissioned as a police officer under the laws  
17 of a State of a junk gun for the purposes of law en-  
18 forcement (whether on or off-duty); or

19 “(E) the manufacture, transfer, or possession  
20 of a junk gun by a licensed manufacturer or licensed  
21 importer for the purposes of testing or experimen-  
22 tation authorized by the Secretary.”.

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