

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 429

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to regulate certain 50 caliber sniper weapons in the same manner as machine guns and other firearms, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 24, 2003

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. LEVIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to regulate certain 50 caliber sniper weapons in the same manner as machine guns and other firearms, and for other purposes.

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 “Anti-Terrorism Mili-
5 tary Sniper Weapon Reclassification Act of 2003”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds that—

1 (1) certain firearms originally designed and
2 built for use as long-range 50 caliber military sniper
3 weapons are increasingly sold in the domestic civil-
4 ian market;

5 (2) the intended use of these long-range fire-
6 arms, and an increasing number of models derived
7 directly from them, is the taking of human life and
8 the destruction of materiel, including armored vehi-
9 cles and such components of the national critical in-
10 frastructure as radars and microwave transmission
11 devices;

12 (3) these firearms are neither designed nor used
13 in any significant number for legitimate sporting or
14 hunting purposes and are clearly distinguishable
15 from rifles intended for sporting and hunting use;

16 (4) extraordinarily destructive ammunition for
17 these weapons, including armor-piercing and armor-
18 piercing incendiary ammunition, is freely sold in
19 interstate commerce; and

20 (5) the virtually unrestricted availability of
21 these firearms and ammunition, given the uses in-
22 tended in their design and manufacture, present a
23 serious and substantial threat to the national secu-
24 rity.

1 **SEC. 3. COVERAGE OF 50 CALIBER SNIPER WEAPONS**
2 **UNDER NATIONAL FIREARMS ACT.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 5845(a) of the Internal
4 Revenue Code of 1986 (defining firearm) is amended by
5 striking “(6) a machine gun; (7) any silencer (as defined
6 in section 921 of title 18, United States Code); and (8)
7 a destructive device.” and inserting “(6) a 50 caliber snip-
8 er weapon; (7) a machine gun; (8) any silencer (as defined
9 in section 921 of title 18, United States Code); and (9)
10 a destructive device.”.

11 (b) 50 CALIBER SNIPER WEAPON.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 5845 of the Internal
13 Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by redesignating
14 subsections (d) through (m) as subsections (e)
15 through (n), respectively, and by inserting after sub-
16 section (c) the following:

17 “(d) 50 CALIBER SNIPER WEAPON.—The term ‘50
18 caliber sniper weapon’ means a rifle capable of firing a
19 center-fire cartridge in 50 caliber, .50 BMG caliber, any
20 other variant of 50 caliber, or any metric equivalent of
21 such calibers.”.

22 (2) MODIFICATION TO DEFINITION OF RIFLE.—

23 Section 5845(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of
24 1986 is amended by inserting “or from a bipod or
25 other support” after “shoulder”.

1 (3) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section
2 5811(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is
3 amended by striking “section 5845(e)” and inserting
4 “section 5845(f)”.

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