

109TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5073

To amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to require micro-stamping of all firearms manufactured in or imported into the United States, and ballistics testing of all firearms in the custody of the Federal Government.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 3, 2006

Mr. ANDREWS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to require microstamping of all firearms manufactured in or imported into the United States, and ballistics testing of all firearms in the custody of the Federal Government.

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 “Technological Resource
5 to Assist Criminal Enforcement (TRACE) Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. BAN ON MANUFACTURE OR IMPORTATION OF FIRE-**
2 **ARMS THAT ARE NOT MICROSTAMPED.**

3 (a) LICENSE REVOCATION.—Section 923(e) of title
4 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the
5 penultimate sentence the following: “The Attorney Gen-
6 eral shall, after notice and opportunity for hearing, revoke
7 the license of an importer who imports into the United
8 States a firearm that is not microstamped, or the license
9 of a manufacturer who manufactures a firearm that is not
10 microstamped or a microstamped firearm that does not
11 transfer the array of characters constituting the
12 microstamp onto the cartridge case of any ammunition
13 fired from the firearm.”.

14 (b) DEFINITION OF MICROSTAMPED.—Section
15 921(a) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by add-
16 ing at the end the following:

17 “(36) The term ‘microstamped’ means, with respect
18 to a firearm, that etched into the interior surface or inter-
19 nal working parts of the firearm is an array of characters
20 which identify the make, model, and serial number of the
21 firearm.”.

22 **SEC. 3. BALLISTICS TESTING OF CRIME GUNS; COMPUT-**
23 **ERIZATION OF RECORDS.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 923 of title 18, United
25 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
26 lowing:

1 “(m)(1) The Attorney General shall conduct ballistics
2 testing of any firearm in the custody of the Federal Gov-
3 ernment if there is reason to believe that the firearm has
4 been involved in a crime under Federal or State law, and
5 establish an electronic database containing records of the
6 results of the testing.

7 “(2) The Attorney General shall establish a computer
8 system through which State and local law enforcement
9 agencies can promptly access the ballistics records stored
10 under this subsection.

11 “(3) Not later than 3 years after the date of enact-
12 ment of this subsection, and annually thereafter, the At-
13 torney General shall submit to the Committees on the Ju-
14 diciary of the Senate and the House of Representatives
15 a report regarding the implementation of this subsection,
16 including—

17 “(A) the number of Federal and State criminal
18 investigations, arrests, indictments, and prosecutions
19 of all cases in which access to ballistics records, pro-
20 vided through the system established under this sec-
21 tion and under similar systems operated by any
22 State, served as a valuable investigative tool in the
23 prosecution of crimes involving firearms; and

24 “(B) the extent to which ballistics records are
25 accessible across jurisdictions.

1 “(4) There are authorized to be appropriated to the
2 Attorney General \$20,000,000 for each of the fiscal years
3 2006 through 2009, to carry out this subsection.”.

4 (b) DEFINITION OF BALLISTICS.—Section 921(a) of
5 such title, as amended by section 2(b) of this Act, is
6 amended by adding at the end the following:

7 “(37) The term ‘ballistics’ means a comparative anal-
8 ysis of fired bullets and cartridge casings to identify the
9 firearm from which bullets and cartridge casings have
10 been discharged, through identification of the unique
11 markings that the firearm imprints on cartridge casings
12 of ammunition fired from the firearm.”.

○