

House Concurrent Resolution No. 28

92ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

4739L.011

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Whereas, although mandatory background checks and waiting periods help ensure
2 that guns do not fall into the wrong hands, there is currently no way to limit the use of a gun to
3 the original purchaser. If guns were personalized so that only the buyer could operate them,
4 many deaths, both accidental and intentional, could be prevented; and
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Whereas, the technology to produce personalized guns, or "smart guns", already
6 exists and is being tested by companies such as Colt and Smith & Wesson. Four major versions
7 of the technology are (1) a magnetic ring worn by the owner that matches a magnet inside the
8 gun that allows it to be activated; (2) a transponder worn by the owner that activates the gun
9 when the corresponding transponder inside the gun is within a close range; (3) a combination
10 lock placed on the gun itself; and (4) a fingerprint recognition device; and
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Whereas, while these "smart gun" technologies can be manufactured for a low
13 price on a widespread scale, to date manufacturers are not yet including the new technologies in
14 their new firearms models; and
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Whereas, Maryland was the first state to enact legislation to have the Handgun
17 Roster Board, the state's gun regulation agency, begin a comprehensive review of personalized
18 handgun technologies which noted the number and variety of models available and examined
19 new research on technological advances. In addition, the legislation required that, as of January
20 1, 2003, all new handguns must have integrated mechanical safety devices (a locking mechanism
21 that is built into the gun); and
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24 **Whereas**, in 2000, New Jersey passed legislation that provided funding for smart
25 gun research and called for all handguns sold in the state to have smart technology; and it isn't
26 possible to retrofit older firearms with smart technology thereby making all older guns illegal to
27 sell or own; and
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29 **Whereas**, one of the problems with the current smart gun technologies is that it
30 isn't possible to retrofit older firearms with such technology thereby making all older guns in
31 states which pass legislation similar to Maryland and New Jersey illegal to sell or own; and
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33 **Whereas**, currently, the steps to promote or even require the use of smart gun
34 technology have not raised any legitimate Second Amendment issues or endangered gun
35 ownership rights, and the technology promotes responsible gun ownership, while reflecting the
36 public's right to regulate the safety of consumer products:
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38 **Now, therefore, be it resolved** that the members of the House of
39 Representatives of the Ninety-second General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate
40 concurring therein, hereby requests the Department of Public Safety to conduct a comprehensive
41 review of personalized handgun technologies and submit a report to the General Assembly by
42 January 15, 2005, on its findings and recommendations; and
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44 **Be it further resolved** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
45 Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for the
46 Director of the Department of Public Safety.