
HB 5220 - Carrying of a facsimile firearm already illegal

Rich Burgess <connecticutcarry@gmail.com>

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To: Anthony Musto <musto@senatedems.ct.gov>, Diana Urban <Diana.Urban@cga.ct.gov>, John Thompson <Jack.Thompson@cga.ct.gov>, Juan Candelaria <Juan.Candelaria@cga.ct.gov>, Kim Fawcett <Kim.Fawcett@cga.ct.gov>, Kim Rose <Kim.Rose@cga.ct.gov>, Len Suzio <Len.Suzio@cga.ct.gov>, Mary Mushinsky <Mary.Mushinsky@cga.ct.gov>, "Rosa Rebimbas Esq." <Rosa.Rebimbas@housegop.ct.gov>, Terrie Wood <Terrie.Wood@housegop.ct.gov>, Terry Gerratana <gerratana@senatedems.ct.gov>, Whit Betts <whit.betts@housegop.ct.gov>

As testified to the committee, HB 5220 is a reckless bill that is fraught with dangers to liberties with vague language that interferes with personal property rights and with other statutes in Connecticut.

My testimony and other testimony to this effect can be found here:

http://cga.ct.gov/asp/menu/CommDocTmyBillAllComm.asp?bill=HB-05220&doc_year=2012

The reason for today's email is to provide an example that I mentioned in my written testimony (attached):

This law is also rather redundant in the face of Connecticut General Statute 53-206c which makes it a class B misdemeanor to sell, brandish or carry "any nonfunctional imitation of an original firearm". Any other threatening or violent behavior taken with a 'look-a-like' firearm is well covered in the remaining Connecticut General Statutes. This bill is a huge infringement on property rights and the rights of people to possess tools like air guns on their personal property with seemingly no justification based in reality for this loss of liberty.

If there is any question that this legislation is already in place and currently used by law enforcement, here is an example of the statute being used effectively:

<http://www.wtnh.com/dpp/news/crime/man-flashes-gun-look-alike-arrested>

A Hartford man was arrested after police found him in possession of a facsimile BB gun.

...

He was charged with carrying a dangerous weapon, possession of narcotics with intent to sell, possession of a controlled substance, and possession of a controlled substance within 1,500 feet of a school.

As you can see, this article demonstrates the following points:

- 1) There is no law that will ever prevent these kinds of items from being brought onto school property or into schools themselves. Laws do not prevent crimes or prevent behaviors in people with ill intent.
- 2) There is already a statute providing a punishment to those that carry facsimile firearms, BB guns, etc in public. This obviously applies every bit as much to school properties as it does anywhere else.
- 3) Criminals ignore the statutes. Only law abiding citizens are penalized by statutes that ban possession of harmless objects.

Please do everything in your power to oppose this bill. As demonstrated above, there is nothing good that can come of it as that area of law is already occupied, and the only things left over from the proposed bill are detrimental losses of people's liberties like banning the possession of replicas, air guns and toys from people's homes. I would hope this was not the intent of the legislature and that this was just a misunderstanding of existing statutes.

Thank you,

Rich Burgess
President

Connecticut Carry, Inc

Ph: [203.208.9577](tel:203.208.9577)

<http://ctcarry.com>