



MINORITY STAFF
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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Summary

H.R. 3193, The Assault Weapons for D.C. Act

The U.S. House of Representatives is scheduled to consider H.R. 3193 on September 29, 2004. This legislation would repeal laws established by the D.C. City Council that restrict the possession of firearms in Washington, D.C. Under the legislation, it would become legal to possess loaded semiautomatic assault weapons in the nation's capital city.

H.R. 3193 would allow assault weapons in the District of Columbia. Sections 7-2501.01(10), 7-2502.01, and 7-2502.02 of the D.C. Code ban the possession of semiautomatic assault weapons in Washington, D.C. Sections 4, 5, and 8 of H.R. 3193 repeal this ban. Weapons that would be lawful to possess if H.R. 3193 were enacted include the following: (1) the AK-47; (2) the Israeli semiautomatic Uzi Carbine; (3) the Bushmaster XM-15, which was used by the D.C.-area snipers to kill ten people in 2002; and (4) the Barrett M82A1 50-caliber sniper weapon, which has a range of about one mile and is used by U.S. troops in Iraq, Afghanistan, and worldwide to penetrate bunkers, disable armored personnel carriers, and take down enemy aircraft.

H.R. 3193 would allow fully loaded assault weapons to be carried in public. Section 7-2507.02 of the D.C. Code requires that all firearms be kept "unloaded and disassembled or bound by a trigger lock or similar device." There are exceptions for firearms kept at a "place of business" or "while being used for lawful recreational purposes within the District." Section 7 of H.R. 3193 would repeal these provisions, allowing assault weapons to be carried fully assembled and loaded throughout Washington, D.C.

H.R. 3193 would allow armor-piercing ammunition, including "cop-killer" bullets. Sections 7-2506.01(3) and 7-2501.01(13a) of the D.C. Code ban ammunition "capable of penetrating commercially available body armor with a penetration resistance equal to or greater than that of 18 layers of Kevlar." Section 6 of H.R. 3193 would repeal this ban.

H.R. 3193 would eliminate the District's registration program, even for assault weapons. Section 7-2502.01 of the D.C. Code provides that "no person or organization in the District shall possess or control any firearm, unless the person or organization holds a valid registration certificate." Section 5 of H.R. 3193 would eliminate this registration system, even for semiautomatic assault weapons.

H.R. 3193 would allow individuals to carry concealed handguns in their places of business and property. Section 22-4504(a) of the D.C. Code bans the possession of handguns in Washington, D.C., with limited exceptions. Section 10 of H.R. 3193 repeals this ban. Section 10 further provides that handguns can be concealed by an individual "in his dwelling house or place of business or on other land possessed by that person."