



Dannel P. Malloy

GOVERNOR
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

March 23, 2018

Sen. Paul Doyle
Sen. John Kissel
Rep. William Tong
Rep. Rosa Rebimbas

Judiciary Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 2500
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: Testimony from Governor Dannel P. Malloy in support of HB 5542: AAC Bump Stocks and Other Means of Enhancing the Rate of Fire of a Firearm

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Judiciary Committee for raising this bill and allowing the much-needed dialogue on banning these dangerous devices, which we know are cheap, deadly, and completely unnecessary in our society. I would also like to thank the proponents for closely mirroring the language I proposed in SB 18: AA Banning Rate of Fire Enhancements.

Since the Las Vegas shooting, this important public safety policy has received support in Massachusetts, New Jersey and Florida, which have banned bump stocks on a bipartisan basis with the support of their Republican Governors. The facts speak for themselves: at the Pulse Nightclub shooting in Orlando, a semi-automatic weapon without a bump stock fired an estimated 24 shots in 9 seconds, whereas in Las Vegas, semi-automatic weapons with bump stocks were utilized to fire 90 shots in 10 seconds.

This legislation, which mirrors SB 18: AA Banning Rate of Fire Enhancements, effectively bans "rate of fire enhancements." This includes, but is not limited to, bump stocks, trigger cranks, binary trigger systems, and any other modification that increases the rate of fire of a semiautomatic weapon. The definition includes any device, component, part, combination of parts, attachment or accessory that:

- (A) Uses energy from the recoil of the firearm to generate a reciprocating action that facilitates repeated operation of the trigger, including, but not limited to, a bump stock;
- (B) Repeatedly pulls the trigger of a firearm through the use of a crank, lever or other part, including, but not limited to, a trigger crank;
- (C) Causes a semiautomatic firearm to fire more than one round per operation of the trigger, where the trigger pull and reset constitute a single operation of the trigger, including, but not limited to, a binary trigger system; or

(D) Is constructed, manufactured, designed or intended to mechanically increase the rate of a firearm in any way.

If this legislation becomes law in Connecticut, any person who sells, offers to sell, purchases, possesses, manufactures, transfers or uses rate of fire enhancements will be guilty of a class D felony, which is punishable by imprisonment of between one and five years and a fine up to \$5,000. This penalty is consistent with illegal ownership of large capacity magazines passed by the General Assembly in 2013.

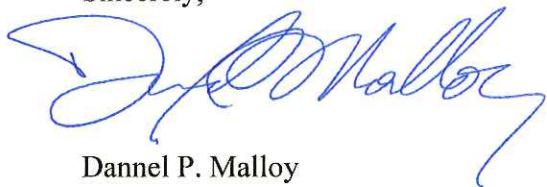
However, there are a few provisions from SB 18 that the committee should consider adding to this bill. It should not be Connecticut's goal to punish law-abiding, responsible gun owners. Therefore, the legislation should include a reasonable and important exception indicating that during the first two years the law is in effect, permit holders who are found in possession of a rate of fire enhancement will be cited with an infraction and receive a fine of \$90 for their first offense.

It is also equally important to notify law-abiding, responsible gun owners of the law change. This proposal should provide notice to legal gun owners by posting a notification on the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) website, providing electronic notice to federally licensed firearm dealers, and including written notice of the change in law in all permit renewal notices until July 1, 2023.

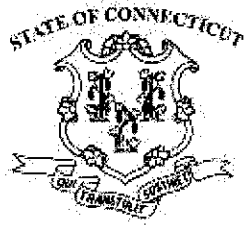
I have attached a copy of my proposed legislation for your consideration as substitute language.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony to you today. We cannot sit back while Congress continues to capitulate to the demands of the NRA over the demands of the American people. Let us do what Congress cannot and will not do -- let us work together to close dangerous loopholes and ban bump stocks in the State of Connecticut.

Sincerely,



Dannel P. Malloy
Governor



General Assembly

February Session, 2018

Governor's Bill No. 18

LCO No. 250



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY

Introduced by:

SEN. LOONEY, 11th Dist.

SEN. DUFF, 25th Dist.

REP. ARESIMOWICZ, 30th Dist.

REP. RITTER M., 1st Dist.

AN ACT BANNING RATE OF FIRE ENHANCEMENTS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2018*) (a) As used in this
2 section:

3 (1) "Firearm" means "firearm" as defined in section 53a-3 of the
4 general statutes, but does not include a machine gun, as defined in
5 section 53a-3 of the general statutes.

6 (2) "Rate of fire enhancement" means any device, component, part,
7 combination of parts, attachment or accessory that: (A) Uses energy
8 from the recoil of a firearm to generate a reciprocating action that
9 facilitates repeated operation of the trigger, including, but not limited
10 to, a bump stock; (B) repeatedly pulls the trigger of a firearm through
11 the use of a crank, lever or other part, including, but not limited to, a
12 trigger crank; (C) causes a semiautomatic firearm to fire more than one

13 round per operation of the trigger, where the trigger pull and reset
14 constitute a single operation of the trigger, including, but not limited
15 to, a binary trigger system; or (D) is constructed, manufactured,
16 designed or intended to mechanically increase the rate of fire of a
17 firearm in any way.

18 (b) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this subsection, any
19 person who, within this state, sells, offers to sell, purchases, possesses,
20 manufactures, transfers or uses a rate of fire enhancement shall be
21 guilty of a class D felony.

22 (c) Any person who holds a valid permit to carry a pistol or revolver
23 issued pursuant to subsection (b) of section 29-28 of the general
24 statutes, a valid eligibility certificate for a pistol or revolver issued
25 pursuant to section 29-36f of the general statutes or a valid long gun
26 eligibility certificate issued pursuant to section 29-37p of the general
27 statutes and possesses a rate of fire enhancement prior to July 1, 2020,
28 shall commit an infraction and be fined not more than ninety dollars
29 for a first offense and shall be guilty of a class D felony for any
30 subsequent offense.

31 (d) Any person who moves into the state in lawful possession of a
32 rate of fire enhancement, shall, within ninety days, render the rate of
33 fire enhancement permanently inoperable, remove the rate of fire
34 enhancement from this state, or surrender the rate of fire enhancement
35 to the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection for
36 destruction.

37 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) Not later than thirty days
38 after the effective date of this section, the Commissioner of Emergency
39 Services and Public Protection shall provide written notification of the
40 provisions of section 1 of this act by: (1) Posting the notification on the
41 department's Internet web site, and (2) providing the notification
42 electronically to federally licensed firearm dealers.

43 (b) Commencing thirty days after the effective date of this section

44 but prior to July 1, 2023, the commissioner shall include a written
45 notification of the provisions of section 1 of this act with: (1) (A) A
46 permit to carry a pistol or revolver issued pursuant to subsection (b) of
47 section 29-28 of the general statutes, (B) an eligibility certificate for a
48 pistol or revolver issued pursuant to section 29-36f of the general
49 statutes, and (C) a long gun eligibility certificate issued pursuant to
50 section 29-37p of the general statutes; and (2) a notice of expiration
51 mailed to a holder of such permit or certificate pursuant to (A)
52 subsection (f) of section 29-30 of the general statutes, (B) subsection (e)
53 of section 29-36h of the general statutes, or (C) subsection (e) of section
54 29-37r of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>October 1, 2018</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To implement the Governor's budget recommendations.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]