

MFOL Delaware Ghost Guns Fact Sheet

Questions? Contact us at delaware@marchforourlives.com

What is being proposed?

HB 277, sponsored by Representative Valerie Longhurst, makes it a felony to possess or manufacture an untraceable firearm. It also criminalizes “covert firearms” designed to not resemble a firearm, as well as “undetectable” firearms made of nonmetal substances so as not to set off metal detectors.

What are ghost guns?

The term “ghost guns” describes homemade weapons constructed from component parts that do not have serial numbers or other identifying markings that can enable authorities to identify their manufacture, sale, or original owner.

Why are ghost guns a threat to public safety?

Ghost guns carry no serial numbers, are untraceable and require no background check to purchase. Individuals prohibited from possessing firearms have used homemade assault weapons in mass shootings and attacks on law enforcement.

Why should we regulate ghost guns in Delaware?

There is no valid argument for anyone to possess unregistered, untraceable, undetectable firearms, or for letting people evade Delaware gun laws by making it possible to assemble untraceable guns at home without passing a background check or getting a gun permit. Without a serial number, there is no way to trace guns used in crimes back to their owners. We cannot let untraceable assembled-at-home guns flow into the black market to end up in the hands of criminals.

Ghost guns have already been used in multiple mass shootings;

- In 2014 a man who failed a background check and could not legally purchase a gun built an assault rifle from a ghost gun kit, then used it on a rampage at a college campus in Southern California, firing 100 rounds and killing five people.
- In 2017 a California man who was prohibited from owning a gun and under prosecution for multiple crimes, was nevertheless able to kill six people and injure 10 with two assault-style rifles he assembled using parts ordered online.
- In 2019 a sixteen-year-old boy used a self-assembled untraceable firearm in a school shooting in Santa Clarita, CA, killing two students and injuring three others.