

By: Representative Fleming

To: Judiciary B

HOUSE BILL NO. 171

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE TRIGGER LOCKS AND BALLISTIC FINGERPRINTS  
2 FOR ALL FIREARMS; TO REQUIRE TAMPER-PROOF SERIAL NUMBERS; TO  
3 PROVIDE IMMUNITY FOR MANUFACTURERS WHO COMPLY WITH THIS ACT; TO  
4 PROVIDE PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF THIS ACT; TO REQUIRE PERMITS  
5 AND RECORD KEEPING; TO AMEND SECTION 97-37-11, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF  
6 1972, IN CONFORMITY TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT; AND FOR RELATED  
7 PURPOSES.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

9 **SECTION 1.** (1) All firearms sold in the state or sold to  
10 residents of this state shall be equipped with trigger locks or  
11 other mechanisms that restricts the unauthorized use of such  
12 firearms. The Attorney General shall notify all firearms dealers  
13 periodically of any trigger locks or other mechanisms that have  
14 been tested and reported as faulty.

15 (2) On January 1, 2005, and thereafter all guns sold in the  
16 state shall have built-in trigger locking devices and tamper-proof  
17 serial numbers.

18 (3) All firearms sold in the state shall have ballistic  
19 fingerprints on file with the Department of Public Safety.

20 (4) Any firearms manufacturer who complies with the  
21 provisions of this act voluntarily shall be immune from any civil  
22 action from any political subdivision on or after January 1, 2005.

23 (5) Any firearms dealer who violates this section shall have  
24 his dealership and business privilege license revoked for two (2)  
25 years and shall be fined Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00).

26 (6) Any firearms dealer or person who sells or possesses a  
27 firearm with tampered or altered serial numbers shall be guilty of  
28 a felony and upon conviction shall be imprisoned for not more than  
29 three (3) years.



30 (7) If any person who possesses a firearm without a trigger  
31 lock or other locking mechanism which has been reported stolen  
32 that is used in the commission of a crime, the owner of such  
33 firearm shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall  
34 be fined no more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00). If such  
35 firearm has not been reported stolen, the owner of such firearm  
36 shall be guilty of gun safety indifference, a felony, and upon  
37 conviction shall be imprisoned for not more than three (3) years.

38 (8) On and after July 1, 2004, all firearm owners are  
39 required to have a permit and proof that all firearms possessed  
40 are in compliance with this section. All firearms shall be  
41 registered with the Department of Public Safety by July 1, 2004.  
42 The department is authorized to assess reasonable fees for such  
43 permit and registration.

44 **SECTION 2.** Section 97-37-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
45 amended as follows:

46 97-37-11. Every merchant or dealer or pawnbroker that sells  
47 bowie-knives, dirk-knives, pistols, brass or metallic knuckles or  
48 slungshots, shall keep a record of all sales of such weapons sold,  
49 showing the description of the weapons, the name of the purchaser,  
50 and the description of weapons and date of sale. Every such  
51 merchant, dealer or pawnbroker shall comply with the provisions of  
52 Section 1 of this act and shall keep records of such compliance.  
53 These records shall be opened to public inspection at any time to  
54 persons desiring to see it. The dealer who violates this section  
55 shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction shall be  
56 fined not less than \* \* \* Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) nor more  
57 than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00).

58 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
59 and after July 1, 2003.

