

By: Representatives Porter, Hulum

To: Judiciary B

## HOUSE BILL NO. 850

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE CRIME OF POSSESSING AN UNSERIALIZED  
2 FIREARM OR UNSERIALIZED UNFINISHED FIREARM FRAME OR RECEIVER,  
3 COMMONLY KNOWN AS "GHOST GUNS"; TO DEFINE CERTAIN TERMS; TO  
4 REQUIRE A FIREARM MANUFACTURED USING 3D PRINTING TECHNOLOGY TO BE  
5 SERIALIZED; TO PRESCRIBE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SERIALIZATION OF  
6 FIREARMS; TO REQUIRE THE COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO PUBLISH  
7 NOTICE OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS ACT; TO EXEMPT CERTAIN FIREARMS  
8 FROM THE SERIALIZATION REQUIREMENTS; TO ESTABLISH CRIMINAL  
9 PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

11 **SECTION 1.** (1) As used in this section, the following words  
12 and phrases have the meanings ascribed in this subsection unless  
13 the context clearly requires otherwise:

14 (a) "Bona fide supplier" means an established business  
15 entity engaged in the development and sale of firearms parts to  
16 one or more federal firearms manufacturers or federal firearms  
17 importers.

18 (b) "Federal firearms dealer" means a licensed dealer  
19 pursuant to 18 USC 921(a)(11).

20 (c) "Federal firearms importer" means a licensed  
21 importer pursuant to 18 USC 921(a)(9).



(d) "Federal firearms manufacturer" means a licensed manufacturer pursuant to 18 USC 921(a)(10).

(e) "Fire control component" means a component necessary for the firearm to initiate, complete or continue the firing sequence, including any of the following: hammer, bolt, bolt carrier, breechblock, cylinder, trigger mechanism, firing pin, striker or slide rails.

(f) "Frame or receiver" means a part of a firearm that, when the complete weapon is assembled, is visible from the exterior and provides housing or a structure designed to hold or integrate one or more fire control components, even if pins or other attachments are required to connect those components to the housing or structure. For those models of firearms in which multiple parts provide the housing or structure, the part or parts that the Director of the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives has determined are a frame or receiver constitute the frame or receiver.

(g) "Security exemplar" means an object to be fabricated at the direction of the United States Attorney General which is:

(i) Constructed of three and seventh tenth (3.7) ounces of material type 17-4 PH stainless steel in a shape resembling a handgun; and

(ii) Suitable for testing and calibrating metal detectors.



(h) "Three-dimensional printer" or "3D printer" means a computer or computer-driven machine capable of producing a three-dimensional object from a digital model.

(i) "Undetectable firearm" means:

(i) A firearm constructed entirely of nonmetal substances;

(ii) A firearm that, after removal of all parts but the major components of the firearm, is not detectable by walk-through metal detectors calibrated and operated to detect the security exemplar; or

(iii) A firearm that includes a major component of a firearm, which, if subject to the types of detection devices commonly used at airports for security screening, would not generate an image that accurately depicts the shape of the component. "Undetectable firearm" does not include a firearm subject to the provisions of 18 USC 922(p)(3) through (6).

(j) "Unfinished frame or receiver" means any forging, casting, printing, extrusion, machined body or similar article that:

(i) Has reached a stage in manufacture where it may readily be completed, assembled or converted to be a functional firearm; or

(ii) Is marketed or sold to the public to become or to be used as the frame or receiver of a functional firearm once completed, assembled or converted.



(k) "Unserialized" means lacking a serial number  
imprinted by:

(i) A federal firearms manufacturer, federal  
firearms importer, federal firearms dealer or other federal  
licensee authorized to provide marking services, pursuant to a  
requirement under federal law; or

(ii) A federal firearms dealer or other federal  
licensee authorized to provide marking services pursuant to  
subsection (5) of this section.

(2) It is unlawful for a person to knowingly sell, offer to  
sell or transfer an unserialized unfinished frame or receiver or  
unserialized firearm, including those produced using a  
three-dimensional printer, unless the party purchasing or  
receiving the unfinished frame or receiver or unserialized firearm  
is a federal firearms importer, federal firearms manufacturer or  
federal firearms dealer.

(3) Beginning January 1, 2026, it is unlawful for a person  
to knowingly possess, transport or receive an unfinished frame or  
receiver, unless:

(a) The party possessing or receiving the unfinished  
frame or receiver is a federal firearms importer or federal  
firearms manufacturer;

(b) The unfinished frame or receiver is possessed or  
transported by a person for transfer to a federal firearms  
importer or federal firearms manufacturer; or



97 (c) The unfinished frame or receiver has been imprinted  
98 with a serial number issued by a federal firearms importer or  
99 federal firearms manufacturer in compliance with subsection (5) of  
100 this section.

101 (4) Beginning January 1, 2026, unless the party receiving  
102 the firearm is a federal firearms importer or federal firearms  
103 manufacturer, it is unlawful for a person to knowingly possess,  
104 purchase, transport or receive a firearm that is not imprinted  
105 with a serial number by:

106 (a) A federal firearms importer or federal firearms  
107 manufacturer in compliance with all federal laws and regulations  
108 regulating the manufacture and import of firearms; or

109 (b) A federal firearms manufacturer, federal firearms  
110 dealer or other federal licensee authorized to provide marking  
111 services in compliance with the unserialized firearm serialization  
112 process under subsection (6) of this section.

113 (5) A firearm or unfinished frame or receiver manufactured  
114 using a three-dimensional printer must be serialized in accordance  
115 with the requirements of subsection (6) before August 1, 2025, or  
116 before reaching a stage of manufacture where it readily may be  
117 completed, assembled or converted to be a functional firearm.

118 (6) Unserialized unfinished frames or receivers and  
119 unserialized firearms serialized pursuant to this section must be  
120 serialized in compliance with all of the following requirements:



121           (a) An unserialized unfinished frame or receiver and  
122 unserialized firearm must be serialized by a federally licensed  
123 firearms dealer or other federal licensee authorized to provide  
124 marking services with the licensee's abbreviated federal firearms  
125 license number as a prefix (which is the first three (3) and last  
126 five (5) digits) followed by a hyphen, and then followed by a  
127 number as a suffix (for example, 12345678-(number)). The serial  
128 number or numbers must be placed in a manner that accords with the  
129 requirements under federal law for affixing serial numbers to  
130 firearms, including the requirements that the serial number or  
131 numbers be at the minimum size and depth and not susceptible to  
132 being readily obliterated, altered or removed, and the licensee  
133 must retain records that accord with the requirements under  
134 federal law in the case of the sale of a firearm. The imprinting  
135 of a serial number upon an undetectable firearm must be done on a  
136 steel plaque in compliance with 18 USC 922(p).

137           (b) Every federally licensed firearms dealer or other  
138 federal licensee that engraves, casts, stamps or otherwise  
139 conspicuously and permanently places a unique serial number  
140 pursuant to this subsection must maintain a record of such  
141 indefinitely. Licensees must make all records accessible for  
142 inspection upon the request of the Department of Public Safety or  
143 a law enforcement agency.

144           (c) Every federally licensed firearms dealer or other  
145 federal licensee that engraves, casts, stamps or otherwise



conspicuously and permanently places a unique serial number pursuant to this subsection must record the serial number at the time of every transaction involving the transfer of a firearm, rifle, shotgun, finished frame or receiver, or unfinished frame or receiver that has been so marked in compliance with the federal guidelines set forth in 27 CFR 478.124.

(d) Every federally licensed firearms dealer or other federal licensee that engraves, casts, stamps or otherwise conspicuously and permanently places a unique serial number pursuant to this subsection must review and confirm the validity of the owner's identification before returning the firearm to the owner.

(7) In order to educate the public, the Commissioner of Public Safety shall issue a public notice regarding the provisions of this section. The notice must be posted on the Department of Public Safety website and may be provided by written notification or other means of communication statewide to all Mississippi-based federal firearms manufacturers, federal firearms dealers or other federal licensees authorized to provide marking services in compliance with the serialization process in subsection (6).

(8) This section does not apply to an unserialized unfinished frame or receiver or an unserialized firearm that:

(a) Has been rendered permanently inoperable;

(b) Is an antique firearm, as defined in 18 USC

921(a)(16);



171           (c) Was manufactured before October 22, 1968;

172           (d) Is an unfinished frame or receiver and is possessed  
173 by a bona fide supplier exclusively for transfer to a federal  
174 firearms manufacturer or federal firearms importer, or is  
175 possessed by a federal firearms manufacturer or federal firearms  
176 importer in compliance with all federal laws and regulations  
177 regulating the manufacture and import of firearms, except that  
178 this exemption does not apply if an unfinished frame or receiver  
179 is possessed for transfer or is transferred to a person other than  
180 a federal firearms manufacturer or federal firearms importer; or

181           (e) Is possessed by a person who received the  
182 unserialized unfinished frame or receiver or unserialized firearm  
183 through inheritance and who is not prohibited otherwise from  
184 possessing the unserialized unfinished frame or receiver or  
185 unserialized firearm, for a period not exceeding thirty (30) days  
186 after inheriting the unserialized unfinished frame or receiver or  
187 unserialized firearm.

188           (9) (a) A person who violates subsection (2) of this  
189 section is guilty of a felony and upon conviction, must be  
190 punished by a fine not to exceed Twenty-five Thousand Dollars  
191 (\$25,000.00) or commitment to the custody of the Department of  
192 Corrections for not less than one (1) year nor more than three (3)  
193 years, or both.

194           (b) A person who commits a second or subsequent  
195 violation of subsection (2) of this section is guilty of a felony





and upon conviction, must be punished by a fine not to exceed Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) or commitment to the custody of the Department of Corrections for not less than three (3) years nor more than seven (7) years, or both.

(c) A person who violates subsection (3) or (4) of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction, must be punished by a fine not to exceed Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00) or confinement in the county jail not to exceed one (1) year, or both.

(d) A person who commits a second or subsequent violation of subsection (3) or (4) of this section is guilty of a felony and upon conviction, must be punished by a fine not to exceed Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) or commitment to the custody of the Mississippi Department of Corrections for not less than five (5) years nor more than ten (10) years, or both.

**SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 2025.

