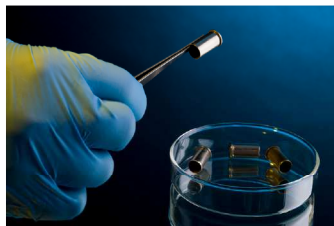




FIREARMS AMENDMENT BILL: DEFINED CHANGES AHEAD

SA Hunters continues to study the implications of the proposed amendments to the Firearms Control Act, with precise and focused attention on specific elements – ranging from the purpose and objective of the proposed amendments, definitions set out in the released documents as well as proposed changes to specific sections which either inhibits or outright ignores the public's right to bear firearms – in an attempt to support our member's rights.

As with everything in life, it is important to understand the rules of engagement and in this case, it is the way in which specific elements are **DEFINED** within the proposed amendments. To ensure that the commentary from our organisation is meaningful, it is important to highlight specific challenges to definitions contained in the proposed amendments.



Automated ballistic identification system and **ballistic sampling** are being redefined which could have a far-reaching impact on effective execution of this bill, not only from a clearly defined perspective but from an implementation perspective.

Automated ballistic identification system: refers to a system that must be **CREATED** by the Police to contain ballistic data of every firearm in the country.

Ballistic sampling: focused on the bullet (ammunition) and casing thereof for each firearm that needs to be obtained and documented by the Police.

Our comment/viewpoint: Aligned to research completed by Dr David Klatzow (partially funded by SA Hunters), it is important to note that ballistic sampling is not sensible due to various issues, mainly relating to the differences in ballistic traits of a firearm based on type of ammunition used. Furthermore, at present there are in the excess of 5 million firearms in use in South Africa – from a resource perspective, it is not feasible for the Police to gather this data effectively.



Calibre is defined as a cartridge as described by make, mark, model, and type

Our commentary: International best practice refers to two conventions of calibre descriptions. The first refers to the European convention where the metric measuring system is used to describe calibre in terms of diameter and length of bullet; while the American convention is to measure in inch and often includes the name of the first-time manufacturer of said cartridge. It will be sensible to use both to avoid confusion since a large percentage of firearms used in South Africa is American-based.



Dedicated hunter refers to a person who qualifies to engage in hunting and actively participates in a prescribed manner in such hunting activity sport-shooting and who is a member of an accredited hunting association; while a **dedicated sports person** relates to a person who qualifies to engage in sports-shooting under this Act actively participates in the prescribed manner in such sports-shooting and who is a member of an accredited sports-shooting organisation.

Our commentary: The additions in terms of qualifications is of concern since there is no clarity as to why it is added to the established definitions. What qualifications are referred to and what does participation in a prescribed manner allude to?



Restricted Firearm means any semi-automatic rifle or semi-automatic shotgun, which cannot readily be converted into a fully automatic.

Our commentary: This expansion on description of restricted firearm can lead to a reasonable expectation that even more additional firearms could be defined as prohibited – how do we control this?

OUR CONTINUED FOCUS

The actions we will be taking to stop this legislation include:

- Legal pressure on government to drop the proposed changes to the bill
- Challenging anti-firearm propaganda and misinformation
- Explaining why firearm ownership is a civil right for law-abiding citizens
- Giving thousands a voice to challenge and pressure the government through commentary and petitions
- Collaboration with industry stakeholders to amplify our impact

HELP US TO HELP YOU - GET INVOLVED