

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1588

To repeal certain provisions of the Federal Switchblade Act to allow domestic manufacturers to ship and sell their products to buyers located in other States, to permit the importation of certain knife parts, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 22, 2019

Mr. CRAPO (for himself and Mr. RISCH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To repeal certain provisions of the Federal Switchblade Act to allow domestic manufacturers to ship and sell their products to buyers located in other States, to permit the importation of certain knife parts, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Freedom of Commerce
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. REPEAL OF CERTAIN LAWS RELATED TO SWITCH-**
2 **BLADE KNIVES.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Act entitled “An Act to pro-
4 hibit the introduction, or manufacture for introduction,
5 into interstate commerce of switchblade knives, and for
6 other purposes”, approved August 12, 1958 (commonly
7 known as the “Federal Switchblade Act”; 15 U.S.C. 1241
8 et seq.), is amended by striking sections 1 through 4.

9 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Chapter 83 of
10 title 18, United States Code, is amended—

11 (1) in section 1716—

12 (A) by striking subsection (g);

13 (B) by redesignating subsections (h)
14 through (k) as subsections (g) through (j), re-
15 spectively; and

16 (C) by striking subsection (h), as so redes-
17 ignated, and inserting the following:

18 “(h)(1) All ballistic knives are nonmailable and shall
19 not be deposited in or carried by the mails or delivered
20 by any officer or employee of the Postal Service. Such
21 knives may be conveyed in the mails, under such regula-
22 tions as the Postal Service shall prescribe—

23 “(A) to civilian or Armed Forces supply or pro-
24 curement officers and employees of the Federal Gov-
25 ernment ordering, procuring, or purchasing such

1 knives in connection with the activities of the Fed-
2 eral Government;

3 “(B) to supply or procurement officers of the
4 National Guard, the Air National Guard, or militia
5 of a State ordering, procuring, or purchasing such
6 knives in connection with the activities of such orga-
7 nizations;

8 “(C) to supply or procurement officers or em-
9 ployees of any State, or any political subdivision of
10 a State or Territory, ordering, procuring, or pur-
11 chasing such knives in connection with the activities
12 of such government; and

13 “(D) to manufacturers of such knives or bona
14 fide dealers therein in connection with any shipment
15 made pursuant to an order from any person des-
16 ignated in subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C).

17 “(2) As used in this subsection, the term ‘ballistic
18 knife’ means a knife with a detachable blade that is pro-
19 pelled by a spring-operated mechanism.”; and

20 (2) in section 1716E(i), by striking “section
21 1716(k)” and inserting “section 1716(j)”.

22 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
23 this section—

24 (1) shall take effect on the date of enactment
25 of this Act; and

1 (2) shall not apply with respect to any indict-
2 ment, conviction, sentencing, appeal, civil or criminal
3 fine or penalty obtained, forfeiture obtained, term of
4 imprisonment, or any other enforcement action or
5 proceeding occurring or commenced before the date
6 of enactment of this Act.

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