## State of California DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE



DIVISION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT BUREAU OF FIREARMS PO BOX 160487 SACRAMENTO, CA 95816

July 10, 2017

Debra M. Cornez, Director Office of Administrative Law 300 Capitol Mall, Suite 1250 Sacramento CA 95814-4339

#### SENT VIA EMAIL TO Dale.Mentink@oal.ca.gov

RE: California Department of Justice's File and Print Regulations for Registration of Bullet-Button Assault Weapons

Dear Director Cornez:

The California Department of Justice, Bureau of Firearms (the "Department") submits the enclosed file and print regulations regarding the registration of bullet-button assault weapons, as described in Penal Code section 30900, subdivision (b). The Department's promulgation of these regulations is exempt from the Administrative Procedures Act. (Pen. Code, § 30900, subd. (b)(5).)

In addition to the proposed regulations, the file and print submission includes the following forms:

- BOF 4542A (Rev. 07/2017), "Firearm Ownership Report." (See proposed Cal. Code Regs., tit. 11, § 5478, subd. (b).)
- BOF 4546 (Rev. 07/2017), "Notice of No Longer in Possession." (See proposed Cal. Code Regs., tit. 11, § 5478, subd. (a).)
- BOF 1008 (Rev. 07/2017), "New Serial Number Application." (See proposed Cal. Code Regs., tit. 11, § 5474.2, subd. (a)(1).)
- Copies of the electronic forms to be used for registration.

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The Department respectfully requests that the Office of Administrative Law file and print the regulations on our behalf. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the Department's proposed file and print regulations, please contact Jacqueline Dosch at)(916) 227-5419.

Stephen J. Lindley, Director Bureau of Firearms

XAVIER BECERRA Attorney General

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# Bullet-Button and Assault Weapon File and Print Regulations

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# California Code of Regulations Title 11, Division 5

Chapter 39 Assault Weapons and Large-Capacity Magazines

Article 2. Definitions of Terms Used to Identify Assault Weapons Registration Requirement, What Qualifies for Registration, and Definitions

§ 5469. Definitions. Registration of Assault Weapons Pursuant to Penal Code Section 30900(b)(1); Who Must Register.

The following definitions apply to terms used in the identification of assault weapons pursuant to Penal Code section 30515:

- (a) "Detachable magazine" means any ammunition feeding device that can be removed readily from the firearm with neither disassembly of the firearm action nor use of a tool being required. A bullet or ammunition cartridge is considered a tool. Ammunition feeding device includes any belted or linked ammunition, but does not include clips, en bloc clips, or stripper clips that load cartridges into the magazine.
- (b) "Flash suppressor" means any device designed, intended, or that functions to perceptibly reduce or redirect muzzle flash from the shooter's field of vision.
- (c) "Forward pistol grip" means a grip that allows for a pistol style grasp forward of the trigger.
- (d) "Pistol-grip that protrudes conspicuously beneath the action of the weapon" means a grip that allows for a pistol style grasp in which the web of the trigger hand (between the thumb and index finger) can be placed below the top of the exposed portion of the trigger while firing.
- (e) "Thumbhole stock" means a stock with a hole that allows the thumb of the trigger hand to penetrate into or through the stock while firing.

Any person who, from January 1, 2001, to December 31, 2016, inclusive, lawfully possessed an assault weapon that does not have a fixed magazine, as defined in Penal Code section 30515, including those weapons with an ammunition feeding device that can be readily removed from the firearm with the use of a tool (commonly referred to as a bullet-button weapon) must register the firearm before July 1, 2018.

Note: Authority cited: Section 30520 30900, Penal Code. Reference: Sections 16170(a), 16350, 16890, 30515, 30600, 30605, 30610, 30615, 30620, 30625, 30630, 30635, 30640, 30645, 30650, 30655, 30660, 30665, 30670, 30675, 30900, 30905, 30910, 30915, 30920, 30925, 30930, 30935, 30940, 30945, 30950, 30955, 30960 and 30965, Penal Code.

### Article 3. Assault Weapon Registration

§ 5470. Registration of Assault Weapons Pursuant to Penal Code Section 30900(b)(1); Which Weapons Must be Registered.

- (a) Except as provided in section 5472, an assault weapon that does not have a fixed magazine, as defined by Penal Code section 30515, must be registered with the Department before July 1, 2018.
- (b) A semiautomatic, centerfire or rimfire pistol with an ammunition feeding device that can be readily removed from the firearm with the use of a tool, commonly referred to as a bullet-button weapon, that has one or more specified features identified in Penal Code section 30515 is included in the category of firearms that must be registered.
- (c) A semiautomatic, centerfire rifle with an ammunition feeding device that can be readily removed from the firearm with the use of a tool, commonly referred to as a bullet-button weapon, that has one or more specified features identified in Penal Code section 30515 is included in the category of firearms that must be registered.
- (d) A semiautomatic shotgun with an ammunition feeding device that can be readily removed from the firearm with the use of a tool, commonly referred to as a bullet-button weapon, is included in the category of firearms that must be registered.

Note: Authority cited: Section 30900, Penal Code. Reference: Sections 30515 and 30900, Penal Code.

§ 5471. Registration of Assault Weapons Pursuant to Penal Code Section 30900(b)(1); Explanation of Terms Related to Assault Weapon Designation.

For purposes of Penal Code section 30900 and Articles 2 and 3 of this Chapter the following definitions shall apply:

- (a) "Ability to accept a detachable magazine" means with respect to a semiautomatic shotgun, it does not have a fixed magazine.
- (b) "Action" means the working mechanism of a semiautomatic firearm, which is the combination of the receiver or frame and breech bolt together with the other parts of the mechanism by which a firearm is loaded, fired, and unloaded.
- (c) "Barrel" means the tube, usually metal and cylindrical, through which a projectile or shot charge is fired. Barrels may have a rifled or smooth bore.
- (d) "Barrel length" means the length of the barrel measured as follows: Without consideration of any extensions or protrusions rearward of the closed bolt or breech-face the approved

procedure for measuring barrel length is to measure from the closed bolt (or breech-face) to the furthermost end of the barrel or permanently attached muzzle device. Permanent methods of attachment include full-fusion gas or electric steel-seam welding, high-temperature (1100°F) silver soldering, or blind pinning with the pin head welded over. Barrels are measured by inserting a dowel rod into the barrel until the rod stops against the closed bolt or breech-face. The rod is then marked at the furthermost end of the barrel or permanently attached muzzle device, withdrawn from the barrel, and measured.

- (e) "Bullet" means the projectile expelled from a gun. It is not synonymous with a cartridge.

  Bullets can be of many materials, shapes, weights, and constructions such as solid lead,
  lead with a jacket of harder metal, round-nosed, flat-nosed, hollow-pointed, et cetera.
- (f) "Bullet-button" means a product requiring a tool to remove an ammunition feeding device or magazine by depressing a recessed button or lever shielded by a magazine lock. A bullet-button equipped fully functional semiautomatic firearm does not meet the fixed magazine definition under Penal Code section 30515(b).
- (g) "Bore" means the interior of a firearm's barrel excluding the chamber.
- (h) "Caliber" means the nominal diameter of a projectile of a rifled firearm or the diameter between lands in a rifled barrel. In the United States, caliber is usually expressed in hundreds of an inch; in Great Britain in thousandths of an inch; in Europe and elsewhere in millimeters.
- (i) "Cartridge" means a complete round of ammunition that consists of a primer, a case, propellant powder and one or more projectiles.
- (i) "Centerfire" means a cartridge with its primer located in the center of the base of the case.
- (k) "Contained in" means that the magazine cannot be released from the firearm while the action is assembled. For AR-15 style firearms this means the magazine cannot be released from the firearm while the upper receiver and lower receiver are joined together.
- (l) "Department" means the California Department of Justice.
- (m) "Detachable magazine" means any ammunition feeding device that can be removed readily from the firearm without disassembly of the firearm action or use of a tool. A bullet or ammunition cartridge is considered a tool. An ammunition feeding device includes any belted or linked ammunition, but does not include clips, en bloc clips, or stripper clips that load cartridges into the magazine.

An AR-15 style firearm that has a bullet-button style magazine release with a magnet left on the bullet-button constitutes a detachable magazine. An AR-15 style firearm lacking a magazine catch assembly (magazine catch, magazine catch spring and magazine release button) constitutes a detachable magazine. An AK-47 style firearm lacking a magazine catch assembly (magazine catch, spring and rivet/pin) constitutes a detachable magazine.

- (n) "Disassembly of the firearm action" means the fire control assembly is detached from the action in such a way that the action has been interrupted and will not function. For example, disassembling the action on a two part receiver, like that on an AR-15 style firearm, would require the rear take down pin to be removed, the upper receiver lifted upwards and away from the lower receiver using the front pivot pin as the fulcrum, before the magazine may be removed.
- (o) "Featureless" means a semiautomatic firearm (rifle, pistol, or shotgun) lacking the characteristics associated with that weapon, as listed in Penal Code section 30515.
- (p) "Fixed magazine" means an ammunition feeding device contained in, or permanently attached to, a firearm in such a manner that the device cannot be removed without disassembly of the firearm action.
- (q) "Flare launcher" means a device used to launch signal flares.
- (r) "Flash suppressor" means any device attached to the end of the barrel, that is designed, intended, or functions to perceptibly reduce or redirect muzzle flash from the shooter's field of vision. A hybrid device that has either advertised flash suppressing properties or functionally has flash suppressing properties would be deemed a flash suppressor. A device labeled or identified by its manufacturer as a flash hider would be deemed a flash suppressor.
- (s) "FMBUS" means a Firearm Manufactured By Unlicensed Subject.
- (t) "Forward pistol grip" means a grip that allows for a pistol style grasp forward of the trigger.
- (u) "Frame" means the receiver of a pistol.
- (v) "Grenade launcher" means a device capable of launching a grenade.
- (w) "Permanently attached to" means the magazine is welded, epoxied, or riveted into the magazine well. A firearm with a magazine housed in a sealed magazine well and then welded, epoxied, or riveted into the sealed magazine well meets the definition of "permanently attached to".
- (x) "Overall length of less than 30 inches" with respect to a centerfire rifle means the rifle has been measured in the shortest possible configuration that the weapon will function/fire and the measurement is less than 30 inches. Folding and telescoping stocks shall be collapsed prior to measurement. The approved method for measuring the length of the rifle is to measure the firearm from the end of the barrel, or permanently attached muzzle device, if so equipped, to that part of the stock that is furthest from the end of the barrel, or permanently attached muzzle device. (Prior to taking a measurement the owner must also