

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Criminal Justice

BILL: SB 612

INTRODUCER: Senator Hays

SUBJECT: Slungshot

DATE: January 29, 2016

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Cellon	Cannon	CJ	Pre-meeting
2.			CM	
3.			RC	

I. Summary:

SB 612 deletes references to “slungshot” in ch. 790, F.S. By making these deletions, the bill:

- Allows persons to carry a slungshot in a concealed manner;
- Allows slungshots to be manufactured, displayed for sale, and sold; and
- Allows a dealer in arms to sell or transfer a slungshot to a minor.

“Slungshot” is defined in s. 790.001(12), F.S., as a small mass of metal, stone, sand, or similar material fixed on a flexible handle, strap, or the like, used as a weapon.

II. Present Situation:

“Slungshot” is defined in s. 790.001(12), F.S., as a small mass of metal, stone, sand, or similar material fixed on a flexible handle, strap, or the like, used as a weapon. The term “slungshot” is contained within the definition of what can be considered a concealed weapon under current law.¹ It is a second degree misdemeanor to manufacture a slungshot or cause one to be manufactured, or to sell a slungshot or expose one for sale.² It is a second degree felony for any dealer in arms to sell or transfer a slungshot to a minor.³

The slungshot often consists of a weight affixed to the end of a long cord by being wound into the center of a knot called a monkey’s fist.⁴ Although the slungshot is a maritime tool, it became an improvised and very effective weapon, widely used by street gangs in the 19th century.⁵

¹ Section 790.001(3)(a), F.S.

² Section 790.09, F.S.

³ Section 790.18, F.S.

⁴ <http://en.wikipedia.org>

⁵ *Id.*; see also <http://wisegeek.com/what-is-a-slungshot.htm>

Survivalists have embraced the slungshot as both a tool and a weapon. Demonstrations of how to make slungshots and use them are available on the Internet.⁶

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill deletes references to “slungshot” in ch. 790, F.S. The weapon (or tool) may be manufactured, displayed for sale, sold, and carried in a concealed manner under the provisions of the bill. The bill will also allow a dealer in arms to sell or transfer a slungshot to a minor.

The bill is effective upon becoming a law.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

Businesses and individuals will be allowed to manufacture and sell slungshots under the bill.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

⁶ <http://www.paracordist.com>; <http://SurvivalistBoards.com>. (last visited January 28, 2016).

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 790.001, 790.09, and 790.18.

IX. Additional Information:

A. **Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. **Amendments:**

None.

This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.
