



**ARIZONA STATE SENATE**  
*Fiftieth Legislature, Second Regular Session*

FACT SHEET FOR H.B. 2728

firearms; sound suppressors; hunting

Purpose

Prohibits the Arizona Game and Fish Commission from adopting or enforcing rules that preclude the possession or use of a firearm silencer or muffler while hunting.

Background

The Arizona Game and Fish Commission (Commission) is required by statute to establish policies regarding the management, preservation and harvest of wildlife. The Commission is also responsible for establishing rules related to hunting, trapping and fishing, and for prescribing the manner and methods that may be used in taking wildlife. As such, wildlife may only be taken by a device or method as prescribed by the Commission (A.R.S. § 17-231, subsection A).

The Commission additionally prescribes rules related to unlawful methods and devices used for the taking of wildlife. Currently, Commission rules prohibit the use or possession of certain devices, methods and ammunition for taking wildlife, or while hunting, including fully automatic firearms, ammunition designed for military use, poisoned or explosive projectiles, and contrivances designed to silence, muffle or minimize the report of a firearm (A.A.C. R12-4-303).

There is no anticipated fiscal impact to the state General Fund.

Provisions

1. Prohibits the Commission from adopting or enforcing any rule that prohibits the lawful possession or use of a firearm silencer or muffler, including for the taking of wildlife or while hunting.
2. Specifies that this legislation does not limit the authority of the Commission to prescribe the type and caliber of firearm or ammunition that may be used for taking wildlife.
3. Defines *firearm silencer* and *muffler*.
4. Makes technical and conforming changes.
5. Becomes effective on the general effective date.

FACT SHEET

H.B. 2728

Page 2

House Action

MAPS	02/08/12	DP	6-0-0-3
3 <sup>rd</sup> Read	02/28/12		42-14-3-0-1

Prepared by Senate Research

March 2, 2012

GK/CS/tf