



SHERIFF

P.O. BOX 512 RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA 92502 (951) 955-2400 FAX (951) 955-2428

The Honorable Jerry Brown
Governor, State of California
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

September 25, 2013

Subject: Assembly Bill 48 – Request for Veto

Dear Governor Brown:

As the Sheriff of Riverside County, I serve 2.3 million of your citizens in your 4th largest county. I respectfully ask that you veto AB 48.

This bill is redundant and somewhat confusing in intent and language, perhaps due to the overlap to the earlier and now inactive SB 396. This bill would criminalize the possession of high-capacity magazines, or their components in magazine “kits”, regardless of the date when they were obtained, in addition to various component parts that are shared with otherwise “lawful” magazines in CA. California already banned newly manufactured magazines over 10 rounds many, many years ago. There is only a relatively small group of high-capacity magazines that were “grandfathered” as lawful in California at that time, and this bill confuses the language as to their status.

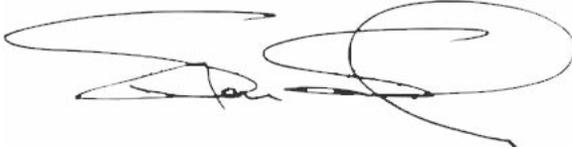
Those few high-capacity magazines still lawful are so few and so dated they have had absolutely no impact on crime in California. Worse, many of these very magazines are in the legitimate hands of honorably retired law enforcement officers in this State who lawfully possessed those magazines when they left our agencies, and who could now become criminals ex post facto. In addition, many semi-automatic firearms, including many expensive .22 caliber target pistols are no longer manufactured today along with their original 11 or 12 rd magazines. Those magazines were originally “grandfathered” in when California banned any new magazines with capacity in excess of 10 rounds. Those magazines now appear to be “illegal”, potentially criminalizing otherwise good citizens on heirlooms and family firearms handed down through generations. At best, this bill is full of vague, confusing, and contradictory language.

This bill could result in the forced confiscation of personal property, which was lawfully purchased by honest hardworking citizens years ago, and without just compensation. This bill both confuses and misleads the public as to its value to our law enforcement communities.

AB 48 clearly attempts to criminalize a small minority of citizens in our communities that are not criminal, and who should not be treated in this fashion. This is an unnecessary bill as high capacity magazines are already banned and outlawed within this State. And if component parts are assembled into functional magazines exceeding 10 rounds in California, they are already illegal by present laws. The criminalizing of component parts of magazines is clearly excessive, as many components are entirely suitable for completely lawful magazines in California.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask that you veto AB 48.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stan Sniff', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Sheriff Stan Sniff, Riverside County

cc: California State Sheriffs' Association (CSSA)