

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 32

By West

A RESOLUTION to create a joint legislative committee to study Tennessee gun laws.

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court recently ruled that law-abiding citizens have a constitutional right to bear arms; and

WHEREAS, present laws regarding gun ownership and use are a patchwork of provisions that were enacted at various times to reflect the concerns and interests of the moment; and

WHEREAS, a comprehensive review of Tennessee's gun laws would bring clarity and uniformity to the regulation of firearms in this state; and

WHEREAS, it would be beneficial to the citizens of this state to have a sensible, unified, understandable, and readily available set of laws regarding this important component of Tennessee life; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that a special joint study committee shall hereby be established to review all of Tennessee's gun laws, including concealed carry permits, issuance of gun licenses to dealers and consumers, persons who are allowed to carry guns and where such persons are allowed to carry guns, penalties associated with guns, and any other matter the joint study committee may find reasonable and prudent in accomplishing its purposes and objectives.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the committee shall be charged with creating recommendations for legislation directly regarding the alleviation of any problems uncovered by the committee's research.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the committee shall consist of two (2) members of the House of Representatives and two (2) members of the Senate, to be appointed by the respective speakers; two (2) members of the legal community, with each speaker appointing one (1) such member; one (1) member of the law enforcement community to be appointed by the speaker of the house; and one (1) member who is a district attorney, to be appointed by the speaker of the senate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all appropriate state agencies shall provide assistance to the special joint committee upon request of the chair.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all legislative members of the special joint committee who are duly elected members of the General Assembly shall remain members of such committee until the committee reports its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly. Non-legislative members shall serve without compensation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the special joint committee shall be convened by the member with the most years of continuous service in the General Assembly, and at its first meeting shall elect from among its legislative membership a chair, vice-chair, and such other officers the committee deems necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the special joint committee shall timely report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the House and Senate Judiciary Committees and to the 106th General Assembly no later than March 30, 2009, at which time the committee shall cease to exist.