

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 4214

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the excise tax and special occupational tax in respect of firearms and to increase the transfer tax on any other weapon, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 10, 2015

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois (for himself and Mr. PASCRELL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Natural Resources, the Judiciary, Energy and Commerce, and Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the excise tax and special occupational tax in respect of firearms and to increase the transfer tax on any other weapon, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Gun Violence Preven-  
5 tion and Safe Communities Act of 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. INCREASE IN EXCISE TAXES RELATING TO FIRE-**  
2 **ARMS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4181 of the Internal Rev-  
4 enue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

5 **“SEC. 4181. IMPOSITION OF TAX.**

6 “There is hereby imposed upon the sale by the manu-  
7 facturer, producer, or importer of the following articles a  
8 tax equivalent to the specified percent of the price for  
9 which so sold:

10 “(1) Articles taxable at 20 percent:

11 “(A) Pistols.

12 “(B) Revolvers.

13 “(C) Firearms (other than pistols and re-  
14 volvers).

15 “(D) Any lower frame or receiver for a  
16 firearm, whether for a semiautomatic pistol,  
17 rifle, or shotgun that is designed to accommo-  
18 date interchangeable upper receivers.

19 “(2) Articles taxable at 50 percent: Shells and  
20 cartridges.”.

21 (b) EXEMPTION FOR UNITED STATES.—Subsection  
22 (b) of section 4182 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986  
23 is amended to read as follows:

24 “(b) SALES TO UNITED STATES.—No firearms, pis-  
25 tols, revolvers, lower frame or receiver for a firearm,  
26 shells, and cartridges purchased with funds appropriated

1 for any department, agency, or instrumentality of the  
2 United States shall be subject to any tax imposed on the  
3 sale or transfer of such articles.”.

4 (c) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FROM INCREASED  
5 TAXES.—

6 (1) ALLOCATION.—Amounts in the general  
7 fund of the Treasury by reason of section 3(a) of the  
8 Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (as  
9 amended by paragraph (2) of this subsection) are  
10 hereby appropriated and shall be available, as fol-  
11 lows:

12 (A) 35 percent of such amounts shall be  
13 available for community-oriented policing serv-  
14 ices grants for the hiring and rehiring of addi-  
15 tional career law enforcement officers under  
16 section 1701(b) of title I of the Omnibus Crime  
17 Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42  
18 U.S.C. 3796dd(b)). States using funds for  
19 school resource officers shall include training,  
20 protections, and monitoring to ensure that  
21 school resource officers are used to improve  
22 school safety and climate, and promote positive  
23 reform in student suspensions, expulsions, and  
24 referrals to the juvenile or criminal justice sys-  
25 tems.

1           (B) 35 percent of such amounts shall be  
2 available for the Project Safe Neighborhoods, as  
3 authorized under section 104 of the 21st Cen-  
4 tury Department of Justice Appropriations Au-  
5 thorization Act (28 U.S.C. 509 note).

6           (C) 10 percent of such amounts shall be  
7 available for the Centers for Disease Control  
8 National Center for Injury Prevention and Con-  
9 trol for purposes of research on gun violence  
10 and its prevention.

11           (D) 5 percent of such amounts shall be  
12 available for the National Criminal History Im-  
13 provement Program authorized under section  
14 302(c) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control  
15 and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C.  
16 3732(c)).

17           (E) 5 percent of such amounts shall be  
18 available for the NICS Act Record Improve-  
19 ment Program authorized under section 301 of  
20 the NICS Improvement Amendments Act of  
21 2007 (18 U.S.C. 922 note).

22           (F) 5 percent for the Community-Based  
23 Violence Prevention Field-Initiated Research  
24 and Evaluation Program of the Department of  
25 Justice.

1           (G) 5 percent of such amounts shall be  
2           available for the Secretary of Education to pro-  
3           vide directed grants and technical assistance to  
4           schools eligible for or receiving grants under  
5           part A of title I of the Elementary and Sec-  
6           ondary Education Act of 1965 to develop and  
7           implement comprehensive, evidence-based local  
8           or regional strategies (such as positive behavior  
9           interventions and supports, social and emotional  
10          learning, and restorative justice programs) to  
11          improve school climate, reduce the use of exclu-  
12          sionary school discipline, and decrease the num-  
13          ber of youth entering the juvenile and criminal  
14          justice systems.

15          (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 3(a)  
16          of the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act  
17          (16 U.S.C. 669b(a)) is amended by adding at the  
18          end the following new sentence: “There shall not be  
19          covered into the fund the portion of the tax imposed  
20          by such section 4181 that is attributable to any in-  
21          crease in amounts received in the Treasury under  
22          such section by reason of the amendments made by  
23          section 2 of the Gun Violence Prevention and Safe  
24          Communities Act of 2015, as estimated by the Sec-  
25          retary.”.

1 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
2 this section shall apply with respect to sales after Decem-  
3 ber 31, 2015.

4 **SEC. 3. SPECIAL TAX AND LICENSING RELATING TO FIRE-**  
5 **ARMS.**

6 (a) INCREASE IN TAX.—

7 (1) GENERAL RULE.—Subsection (a) of section  
8 5801 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is  
9 amended—

10 (A) in paragraph (1) by striking “\$1,000”  
11 and inserting “\$2,000”, and

12 (B) in paragraph (2) by striking “\$500”  
13 and inserting “50 percent of the dollar amount  
14 applicable under paragraph (1) for the taxable  
15 year”.

16 (2) SMALL IMPORTERS AND MANUFACTUR-  
17 ERS.—Paragraph (1) of section 5801(b) of such  
18 Code is amended by striking “substituting ‘\$500’ for  
19 ‘\$1,000’” and inserting “substituting ‘50 percent of  
20 the dollar amount applicable under such paragraph  
21 for the taxable year’ for ‘\$2,000’”.

22 (3) ADJUSTMENT FOR INFLATION.—Section  
23 5801 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is  
24 amended by adding at the end the following new  
25 subsection:

1       “(c) ADJUSTMENT FOR INFLATION.—In the case of  
2 any taxable year beginning in a calendar year after 2016,  
3 the dollar amount in subsection (a)(1) shall be increased  
4 by an amount equal to—

5               “(1) such dollar amount, multiplied by

6               “(2) the cost-of-living adjustment determined  
7 under section 1(f)(3) for the calendar year in which  
8 the taxable year begins, determined by substituting  
9 ‘calendar year 2015’ for ‘calendar year 1992’ in sub-  
10 paragraph (B) thereof.

11 If any increase under paragraph (1) is not a multiple of  
12 \$10, such increase shall be rounded to the next lowest  
13 multiple of \$10.”.

14       (b) INCREASE IN TRANSFER TAX ON FIREARMS.—

15               (1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section  
16 5811 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is  
17 amended—

18                       (A) by striking “\$200” and inserting  
19 “\$500”, and

20                       (B) by striking “\$5” and inserting  
21 “\$100”.

22               (2) ADJUSTMENT FOR INFLATION.—Section  
23 5811 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is  
24 amended by adding at the end the following new  
25 subsection:

1       “(d) ADJUSTMENT FOR INFLATION.—In the case of  
2 any taxable year beginning in a calendar year after 2016,  
3 each dollar amount in subsection (a) shall be increased  
4 by an amount equal to—

5               “(1) such dollar amount, multiplied by

6               “(2) the cost-of-living adjustment determined  
7 under section 1(f)(3) for the calendar year in which  
8 the taxable year begins, determined by substituting  
9 ‘calendar year 2015’ for ‘calendar year 1992’ in sub-  
10 paragraph (B) thereof.

11 If any increase under paragraph (1) is not a multiple of  
12 \$5, such increase shall be rounded to the next lowest mul-  
13 tiple of \$5.”.

14       (c) CERTAIN SEMIAUTOMATIC PISTOLS CHAMBERED  
15 FOR CARTRIDGES TREATED AS FIREARMS.—The first  
16 sentence of section 5845(a) of the Internal Revenue Code  
17 of 1986 is amended—

18               (1) by striking “and” before “(8)”,

19               (2) by striking “device.” and inserting “device,  
20 and”, and

21               (3) by adding at the end the following: “(9) a  
22 semiautomatic pistol chambered for cartridges com-  
23 monly considered rifle rounds, configured with re-  
24 ceivers commonly associated with rifles and capable  
25 of accepting detachable magazines.”.



1 (d) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided by para-  
3 graph (2), the amendments made by this section  
4 shall take effect on July 1, 2016.

5 (2) TRANSFER TAX.—The amendment made by  
6 subsection (b) shall apply to transfers after Decem-  
7 ber 31, 2015.

8 (3) ALL TAXPAYERS TREATED AS COMMENCING  
9 IN BUSINESS ON JULY 1, 2016.—Any person engaged  
10 on July 1, 2016, in any trade or business which is  
11 subject to an occupational tax by reason of the  
12 amendment made by subsection (b) shall be treated  
13 for purposes of such tax as having first engaged in  
14 a trade or business on such date.

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