

**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.)

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Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Commerce and Tourism

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BILL: SB 612

INTRODUCER: Senator Hays

SUBJECT: Slungshot

DATE: February 15, 2016

REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Cellon</u>	<u>Cannon</u>	<u>CJ</u>	<u>Favorable</u>
2.	<u>Askey</u>	<u>McKay</u>	<u>CM</u>	<u>Pre-meeting</u>
3.	_____	_____	<u>RC</u>	_____

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**I. Summary:**

SB 612 repeals references to “slungshot” in ch. 790, F.S. By making these changes, 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.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup> It is a second degree felony for any dealer in arms to sell or transfer a slungshot to a minor.<sup>3</sup>

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.<sup>4</sup> Although the slungshot is a maritime tool, it became an improvised and very effective weapon, widely used by street gangs in the 19th century.<sup>5</sup> Survivalists have embraced the slungshot as both a tool and a weapon.

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<sup>1</sup> Section 790.001(3)(a), F.S.

<sup>2</sup> Section 790.09, F.S.

<sup>3</sup> Section 790.18, F.S.

<sup>4</sup> See generally, Wikipedia slungshot website. Available at: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slungshot>, (last visited February 11, 2016).

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*; see also <http://www.wisegeek.com/what-is-a-slungshot.htm>, (last visited February 11, 2016).

**III. Effect of Proposed Changes:**

The bill repeals references to “slungshot” in ch. 790, F.S. The slungshot 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 makes conforming changes in s. 790.09, F.S., to reflect that the section applies only to metallic knuckles.

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:**

Indeterminate, but positive.

**C. Government Sector Impact:**

The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services reports that the bill has no impact on the department.<sup>6</sup>

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

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<sup>6</sup> Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, *Senate Bill #612: Relating to Slungshot*, October 26, 2015, (on file with the Committee on Commerce and Tourism).

**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.

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

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