

**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 Criminal Justice

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BILL: SB 612

INTRODUCER: Senator Hays

SUBJECT: Slungshot

DATE: January 29, 2016

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

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

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**I. Summary:**

SB 612 deletes references to “slungshot” in ch. 790, F.S. By making these deletions, 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>

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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> <http://en.wikipedia.org>

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*; see also <http://wisegeek.com/what-is-a-slungshot.htm>

Survivalists have embraced the slungshot as both a tool and a weapon. Demonstrations of how to make slungshots and use them are available on the Internet.<sup>6</sup>

### **III. Effect of Proposed Changes:**

The bill deletes references to “slungshot” in ch. 790, F.S. The weapon (or tool) 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 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:**

Businesses and individuals will be allowed to manufacture and sell slungshots under the bill.

#### **C. Government Sector Impact:**

None.

### **VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

### **VII. Related Issues:**

None.

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<sup>6</sup> <http://www.paracordist.com>; <http://SurvivalistBoards.com>. (last visited January 28, 2016).

**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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