

# HB 5731: Making Ghost Guns Illegal

## THE PROBLEM

Ghost guns are unregulated firearms that anyone - including minors and prohibited purchasers - can buy and build without a background check. These unserialized and untraceable “ghost gun kits” can be bought online and assembled at home.

### Key facts about ghost guns:

- Designed to avoid all gun laws
- Untraceable and unserialized
- Available to buy without a background check

There are no federal restrictions on who can buy gun kits or parts or on how many someone can buy. Kits and parts are relatively cheap, and they are intentionally marketed as unregulated and untraceable to appeal to those who want to avoid background checks and gun traffickers. They provide deadly firepower to white supremacist and terrorist groups who want to commit acts of violence without being detected.

**In short, ghost guns have the potential to undermine all of the life-saving policies that the Illinois General Assembly has fought so hard to put in place.**

## THE SOLUTION

Ghost guns pose a major threat to every single person across Illinois. New legislation will ensure that:

- The transfer, purchase, manufacture, importation, and possession of ghost guns is illegal
- Printing ghost guns with 3-D printers is prohibited
- Guns that are currently unserialized can become serialized and trackable

### How will this bill make Illinois safer?

Requiring serialization of these dangerous weapons will ensure that law enforcement has the tools they need to trace ghost guns. Nationwide, law enforcement discovered 10,000 ghost guns in 2019, and there’s no way to tell how many more of these untraceable weapons are on the street. Cracking down on ghost guns will reduce how many illegal guns are on our streets. Ten states have implemented laws regulating ghost guns to keep their children, families and communities safe from gun violence.<sup>2</sup> Illinois can be a leader on this issue by passing common-sense reform that stops the illegal flow of ghost guns.

## BY THE NUMBERS

**15** MINUTES

time it takes to build a ghost gun

**455** GHOST GUNS

seized by Chicago Police in 2021

**2X** GHOST GUNS

seized in Chicago compared to New York City

**“These untraceable, homemade ghost guns are a clear and present danger to our communities.”** — Kathleen Sances, President & CEO, G-PAC



<sup>1</sup> Karni, A. (2021, April 9). Ghost guns: What they are, and why they are an issue now. The New York Times. Retrieved March 22, 2022, from <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/09/us/politics/ghost-guns-explainer.html>

<sup>2</sup> Giffords. (n.d.). Ghost guns. Giffords. Retrieved March 22, 2022, from <https://giffords.org/lawcenter/gun-laws/policy-areas/hardware-ammunition/ghost-guns/>