

House Bill No. 1227

An act relating to self-propelled knives; amending s. 790.225, F.S.; clarifying the definition of self-propelled knife, the unlawful manufacture, display, sale, ownership, possession, or use of which is prohibited; providing nonapplicability; providing a penalty; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 790.225, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

790.225 Ballistic self-propelled knives; unlawful to manufacture, sell, or possess; forfeiture; penalty.—

(1) It is unlawful for any person to manufacture, display, sell, own, possess, or use a ballistic self-propelled knife which is a device that propels a knifelike blade as a projectile and which physically separates the blade from the device by means of a coil spring, elastic material, or compressed gas. A ballistic self-propelled knife is declared to be a dangerous or deadly weapon and a contraband item. It shall be subject to seizure and shall be disposed of as provided in s. 790.08(1) and (6).

(2) This section shall not apply to:

(a) Any device from which a knifelike blade opens, where such blade remains physically integrated with the device when open.

(b) Any device which propels an arrow, a bolt, or a dart by means of any common bow, compound bow, crossbow, or underwater spear gun.

(3) Any person violating the provisions of subsection (1) is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Approved by the Governor June 2, 2003.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 2, 2003.