



Gun Owners of America

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Suppressor Freedom— **PRIORITY SUPPORT**

HB 957 by Oliverson | SB 542 by Springer

Current law:

- To own a suppressor, one must comply with an onerous set of Federal rules and regulations that include a \$200 tax stamp and a lengthy wait – sometimes over a year. (National Firearms Act of 1934.)
- The State of Texas criminalizes owning a suppressor outside of Federal regulations. (Texas Penal Code 46.05(a)(6).)

What these bills do:

- Repeal TX criminalization of suppressor possession apart from Federal regulations. (TX Penal Code 46.05(a)(6).)
- Establish a class of "Made in Texas" suppressors that must be manufactured in Texas from Texas-made parts, must stay in Texas, and are exempt from Federal regulations
- Give a path to secure a declaratory judgment on the constitutionality of this law *before* someone manufactures "Made in Texas" suppressors.

Debunking Common Myths about Suppressors:

TRUTH: Suppressors do NOT silence guns.

- Without a suppressor, a gunshot is ~160 decibels. Just 1 shot can cause permanent hearing damage.
- With a suppressor, a gunshot is mid-130's decibels (depending on location, equipment, ammunition).
- The sound of suppressed gunfire is still loud enough that many people still wear hearing protection.
- The occupational hazard limit is 140 decibels.

TRUTH: Suppressors are a safety tool.

- A suppressor brings a firearm sound just under the hazard limit, reducing the risk of permanent hearing damage.
- The CDC recommends use of a suppressor if possible to safeguard one's health.
- It's more dangerous NOT to use a suppressor than to use one.

TRUTH: Suppressors benefit communities.

- A suppressor doesn't lend itself to criminal activity – it makes a gun heavier, longer, less concealable, and only reduces the sound 30 decibels.
- Who uses a suppressor? Those who shoot guns and don't want permanent hearing damage.
- When hunting: a suppressor makes it easier to communicate with those around you (no ear muffs)
- A suppressor makes shooting less of a nuisance for the surrounding area. Some countries consider it rude to shoot WITHOUT a suppressor.
- A suppressor reduces recoil, making a gun easier to control, and thus, safer.
- Children, weaker adults, and those with hearing complications find it easier to shoot using a suppressor.

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