

## General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2022 Archives' Research Report

**Resolution No.:** 2022-B003  
**Title:** Regulating Ghost Guns and 3D Printed Guns  
**Proposer:** The. Rt. Rev. Douglas Fisher  
**Topic:** Gun Control

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### Directly Related: (Attached)

2018-C015 On the Topic of Firearms Without Serial Numbers (Rejected)  
2015-C005 Implement Laws to Decrease Gun Violence  
1991-B042 Express the Mind of the House Bishops Supporting Handgun Controls

### Indirectly Related: (Available in the [Acts of Convention](#) database, searchable by resolution number)

2000-B007 Request the Removal of Handguns and Assault Weapons  
2000-D004 Express Concern About Availability of Handguns and Assault Weapons  
1976-C052 Urge Congress to Adopt Effective Hand Gun Control Legislation

*In preparing this report, the Archives researched the resolutions in the Acts of Convention database for the period 1973 through 2018, selecting "direct" resolutions that have a substantive bearing on the proposed legislation. The "direct" resolutions are attached and "indirect" resolutions are available in the Acts of Convention database. Committee members who require other research assistance should contact the Archives through the [Research Request Form](#) or call 800-525-9329.*

# B003 - Regulating Ghost Guns and 3D Printed Guns

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**Final Status:** Not Yet Finalized

**Proposed by:** The Rt. Rev. Douglas Fisher

**Endorsed by:** The Rt. Rev. Deon Johnson, The Rt. Rev. William Stokes

**Requests New Interim Body:** No

**Amends C&C or Rules of Order:** No

**Has Budget Implications:** No

**Cost:**

**HiA:** HD

**Legislative Committee Currently Assigned:** 08 - Social Justice & United States Policy

**Completion Status:** Incomplete

**Latest House Action:** N/A

**Supporting Documents:** No

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## Resolution Text

*Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring,

That the parts and kits used to build ghost guns—unserialized and untraceable firearms that can be built by anyone using unfinished frames or receivers—should be banned, and until that is possible, should be subject to full regulation as firearms and subject to all federal regulations that apply to firearms, including all oversight related to the provisions of the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act; and be it further

*Resolved*, that the manufacture of firearms or firearms parts using 3D printers poses a singularly dangerous threat and should be banned, and until that is possible, should be subject to full regulation as firearms and subject to all federal regulations that apply to firearms, including all oversight related to the provisions of the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Office of Government Relations, members of the Episcopal Public Policy Network and individual Episcopalians be encouraged to advocate for state and federal legislation that would ban and/or subject the parts and kits used to build homemade weapons to the same oversight and regulation that exists for firearms.

## Explanation

The Brady Campaign explains that ghost guns are unserialized and untraceable firearms that can be bought online and assembled at home. They are often sold through "ghost gun kits," which include all of the parts and often the equipment necessary to build these weapons at home. These kits are widely available and can be purchased by anyone, including prohibited purchasers, domestic abusers, and gun traffickers — without a background check. As these kits and guns are sold at gun shows and online every day throughout the country, they undermine all of the life-saving policies that state legislatures have fought so hard to put in place.

In short, ghost guns are:

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

3D printed guns are a type of ghost gun that pose a singularly dangerous threat because they are “effectively invisible to law enforcement agencies.” ([www.thetrace.org/2021/02/3d-printer-ghost-gun-legal-liberator-deterrence-dispensed/](http://www.thetrace.org/2021/02/3d-printer-ghost-gun-legal-liberator-deterrence-dispensed/)).





**Resolution Number:** 2018-C015  
**Title:** On the Topic of Firearms Without Serial Numbers  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Rejected  
**Text of Resolution:**

*Resolved*, the House of Deputies concurring, That this 79th General Convention make formal requests to national officials to enact and enforce stricter and more uniform sentencing guidelines, both federally as well as among all states, for individuals who are involved in the manufacturing, possession or use of so-called “Lunch Box”, “Ghost”, “Replica” Guns and other such firearms which are lacking serial numbers.



**Resolution Number:** 2015-C005  
**Title:** Implement Laws to Decrease Gun Violence  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention on the 50th anniversary of the murder of seminarian Jonathan Daniels, urge all legislators at federal, state and local levels to help decrease gun violence by implementing laws that;

1. Require permits to carry concealed weapons and criminal background checks for every gun purchase, including those made at gun shows; and
2. Except for the use of military and law enforcement agencies, ban the sale, transfer, importation and manufacture of military-style assault weapons and high-capacity magazines; and
3. Ban the importation and manufacture of Full-Auto Conversion kits that convert guns into automatic weapons; and
4. Tighten laws against gun trafficking, and increase penalties for those who engage in "straw purchases" of firearms for ineligible persons; and
5. Prohibit persons from purchasing guns without evidence of gun safety training; and
6. Recognize the impact of existing inheritance laws on the transfer of gun ownership; and
7. Promote funding for research into the prevention and causes of gun violence.

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), p. 328.



**Resolution Number:** 1991-B042

**Title:** Express the Mind of the House Bishops Supporting Handgun Controls

**Legislative Action Taken:** Adopted

**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the House of Bishops, meeting in the 70th General Convention of the Episcopal Church, reaffirm its support for sound handgun control legislation, a position first taken in 1976; and be it further*

*Resolved, That this House of Bishops endorse the so-called Brady Bill now before the Congress of the United States as a first step toward effective handgun control. It is sensible legislation which requires waiting periods and background checks on those persons who wish to purchase handguns; and be it further*

*Resolved, That copies of this resolution be sent to the President of the United States, appropriate members of Congress and other appropriate government entities.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Phoenix, 1991* (New York: General Convention, 1992), p. 380.