

**As Introduced**

**131st General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2015-2016**

**H. B. No. 119**

**Representative Patmon**

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**A BILL**

To enact sections 2923.51, 2923.52, 2923.53, 1  
2923.54, and 2923.55 of the Revised Code to 2  
generally ban the manufacture, sale, and public 3  
display of imitation firearms and the disguising 4  
of a firearm to make it resemble an imitation 5  
firearm. 6

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** That sections 2923.51, 2923.52, 2923.53, 7  
2923.54, and 2923.55 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as 8  
follows: 9

**Sec. 2923.51.** As used in sections 2923.51 to 2923.55 of 10  
the Revised Code: 11

(A) "BB device" means any instrument that expels a 12  
projectile, such as a BB or a pellet, through the force of air 13  
pressure, gas pressure, or spring action, including any airsoft 14  
gun and any spot marker or paintball gun. 15

(B) "Imitation firearm" means any BB device, replica of a 16  
firearm, or other device that is so substantially similar in 17  
overall appearance to an existing firearm as to lead a 18  
reasonable person to perceive that the device is a firearm, 19

regardless of the color of the BB device, replica, or other device. 20  
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(C) "Public place" means an area open to the public, including any of the following: 22  
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(1) A street, alley, sidewalk, driveway, or parking lot; 24

(2) A bridge; 25

(3) A plaza or park; 26

(4) A front yard; 27

(5) A motor vehicle, as defined in section 4511.01 of the Revised Code, whether moving or not; 28  
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(6) A building open to the general public, including one that serves food or drink or that provides entertainment; 30  
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(7) A doorway or entrance to a building or dwelling; 32

(8) A school operated by a board of education or a community school established under Chapter 3314. of the Revised Code; 33  
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(9) Any premises owned or leased by a public or private college, university, or other institution of higher education. 36  
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(D) "Firearm" and "handgun" have the same meanings as in section 2923.11 of the Revised Code. 38  
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**Sec. 2923.52.** (A) No person shall knowingly manufacture an imitation firearm in this state on or after January 1, 2016. 40  
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(B) No person shall knowingly sell an imitation firearm in this state on or after January 1, 2016. 42  
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(C) (1) Whoever violates division (A) of this section is guilty of illegal manufacture of an imitation firearm, a 44  
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misdemeanor of the first degree. 46

(2) Whoever violates division (B) of this section is 47  
guilty of illegal sale of an imitation firearm, a misdemeanor of 48  
the first degree. 49

(D) Division (A) of this section does not apply to the 50  
manufacture, and division (B) of this section does not apply to 51  
the sale, of any of the following: 52

(1) A nonfiring collector's replica that is historically 53  
significant and is offered for sale in conjunction with a wall 54  
plaque or presentation case; 55

(2) A BB device that is a spot marker gun that expels a 56  
projectile that is greater than 10mm caliber; 57

(3) A BB device that expels a projectile, such as a BB or 58  
pellet, that is other than 6mm or 8mm caliber; 59

(4) A BB device that is an airsoft gun that expels a 60  
projectile, such as a BB or pellet, that is 6mm or 8mm caliber, 61  
if the device complies with the requirements of federal law; 62

(5) An imitation firearm that contains, or has affixed to 63  
it, a marking that complies with the requirements of federal law 64  
that apply to that imitation firearm. 65

(E) Division (A) of this section does not apply to the 66  
manufacture, and division (B) of this section does not apply to 67  
a sale, of an imitation firearm for any of the following 68  
purposes: 69

(1) Solely for export in interstate or foreign commerce; 70

(2) Solely for lawful use as a prop in any theatrical 71  
production, including any motion picture, video, television, or 72

stage production; 73

(3) For use in a certified or regulated sporting event or 74  
competition; 75

(4) For use in any military or civil defense activity or 76  
ceremonial activity. 77

**Sec. 2923.53.** (A) No person, on or after January 1, 2016, 78  
shall knowingly modify any imitation firearm in a way that makes 79  
the imitation firearm look more like a firearm. 80

(B) No person, on or after January 1, 2016, shall 81  
knowingly modify any firearm in a way that makes the firearm 82  
look more like an imitation firearm. 83

(C) (1) Whoever violates division (A) of this section is 84  
guilty of alteration of an imitation firearm, a misdemeanor of 85  
the first degree. 86

(2) Whoever violates division (B) of this section is 87  
guilty of disguising a firearm as an imitation firearm, a 88  
misdemeanor of the first degree. 89

(D) Division (A) of this section does not apply to a 90  
lawful use of an imitation firearm in any theatrical production, 91  
including any motion picture, video, television, or stage 92  
production. 93

**Sec. 2923.54.** (A) No person, on or after January 1, 2016, 94  
shall knowingly and openly display or expose any imitation 95  
firearm in a public place. 96

(B) Whoever violates division (A) of this section is 97  
guilty of illegal public display of an imitation firearm, a 98  
misdemeanor of the first degree. 99

(C) Division (A) of this section does not apply in any of 100  
the following circumstances: 101

(1) The imitation firearm is displayed or exposed in the 102  
course of commerce, including as a prop in a commercial film or 103  
video production, or for service, repair, or restoration of the 104  
imitation firearm. 105

(2) The imitation firearm is used as a prop in a 106  
theatrical production, including any motion picture, video, 107  
television, or stage production. 108

(3) The imitation firearm is used in conjunction with a 109  
certified or regulated sporting event or competition. 110

(4) The imitation firearm is used in conjunction with 111  
lawful hunting or a lawful pest control activity. 112

(5) The imitation firearm is used or possessed at a 113  
certified or regulated public or private shooting range. 114

(6) The imitation firearm is used at a fair, exhibition, 115  
exposition, or other similar activity for which a permit has 116  
been obtained from a local or state government. 117

(7) The imitation firearm is used in a military, civil 118  
defense, or civic activity, including a flag ceremony, color 119  
guard, parade, award presentation, historical reenactment, or 120  
memorial. 121

(8) The imitation firearm is used for a display that is 122  
part of a museum collection. 123

(9) The imitation firearm is used in a parade, ceremony, 124  
or other similar activity for which a permit has been obtained 125  
from a local or state government. 126

(10) The imitation firearm is displayed on a wall plaque 127  
or in a presentation case. 128

(11) The imitation firearm is being used in an area where 129  
the discharge of a firearm is lawful. 130

**Sec. 2923.55.** (A) Any imitation firearm legally 131  
manufactured in this state on or after January 1, 2016, shall be 132  
accompanied, at the time of offer for sale in this state, by a 133  
conspicuous advisory in writing as part of the packaging of the 134  
imitation firearm to the effect that all of the following apply: 135

(1) The product may be mistaken for a firearm by law 136  
enforcement officers or others. 137

(2) Altering the product to make it look more like a 138  
firearm is dangerous and may be a crime. 139

(3) Brandishing or displaying the product in public may 140  
cause confusion and may be a crime. 141

(B) To comply with division (A) of this section, the 142  
conspicuous advisory may be, but is not required to be, affixed 143  
to the imitation firearm. 144

(C) No person shall knowingly fail to comply with division 145  
(A) of this section. 146

(D) Whoever violates division (C) of this section is 147  
guilty of failure to provide imitation firearm warnings, a 148  
misdemeanor of the first degree. 149