



Senator Scott Jiu Wo Kawasaki

Alaska State Legislature

Senate District P

SB 243

Sponsor Statement

"An Act removing devices designed, made, or adapted to muffle the report of a firearm from the definition of 'prohibited weapon.'"

SB 243 would repeal AS 11.61.200(h)(1)(B) thus removing the state-level classification of a firearm suppressor (silencer) as a "prohibited weapon."

Under current statute, possessing or manufacturing a suppressor is technically a Class C felony in Alaska, unless the device was registered in accordance with federal law (the National Firearms Act). By repealing this specific subsection, the state effectively "deregulates" suppressors at the state level, aligning Alaska's statutes with federal provisions and clarifying any confusion between the two.

Critical Legal Note: Federal Law Still Applies

While the repeal removes state penalties, it does not override federal law.

- **The NFA Still Exists:** Suppressors remain regulated under the National Firearms Act. Federal law still requires registration, a background check, and (historically) a tax stamp.
- **Federal Prosecution:** Even if Alaska does not consider a suppressor a "prohibited weapon," the ATF can still prosecute individuals in Alaska for possessing unregistered silencers under federal statutes.