

S 3096

BLAST Act

Congress: 107 (2001–2003, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Crime and Law Enforcement

Introduced: Oct 10, 2002

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (text of measure as introduced: CR S10376

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (text of measure as introduced: CR S10376-10377) (Oct 10, 2002)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/107th-congress/senate-bill/3096>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Kohl, Herb [D-WI]

Party: Democratic • State: WI • Chamber: Senate

Cosponsors (7 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]	D · CA		Oct 10, 2002
Sen. Reed, Jack [D-RI]	D · RI		Oct 10, 2002
Sen. Schumer, Charles E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Oct 10, 2002
Sen. Mikulski, Barbara A. [D-MD]	D · MD		Oct 16, 2002
Sen. Corzine, Jon S. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Oct 17, 2002
Sen. Levin, Carl [D-MI]	D · MI		Oct 17, 2002
Sen. DeWine, Mike [R-OH]	R · OH		Nov 13, 2002

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Referred To	Oct 10, 2002

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Crime and Law Enforcement

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
107 HR 5663	Identical bill	Nov 12, 2002: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security.

Ballistics, Law Assistance, and Safety Technology Act (BLAST Act) - Amends the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act to require a licensed manufacturer or importer of firearms to: (1) test fire manufactured or imported firearms as specified by the Secretary of the Treasury; (2) prepare ballistics images of the fired bullet and cartridge casings; (3) make the records available to the Secretary for entry into a computerized database; and (4) store the fired bullet and cartridge casings.

Directs the Attorney General and the Secretary to assist firearm manufacturers and importers in complying with these requirements through: (1) the acquisition, disposition, and upgrades of ballistics equipment and bullet and cartridge casing recovery equipment; (2) the hiring or designation of personnel necessary to develop and maintain a ballistics database; (3) providing education about the role of ballistics; and (4) providing for the coordination among law enforcement, regulatory agencies, and the firearm industry to curb firearm-related crime and illegal firearm trafficking.

Requires the Attorney General and the Secretary to: (1) establish a computer system through which State and local law enforcement agencies can promptly access ballistics records; (2) encourage training for ballistics examiners; (3) report to Congress on the impact of this Act on criminal investigations, arrests, indictments, and prosecutions; and (4) conduct mandatory ballistics testing of all firearms obtained by or in the possession of their respective agencies.

Prohibits the use of ballistics information of individual guns for prosecutorial purposes unless officials have a reasonable belief that a crime has been committed and that ballistics information would assist in the investigation.

Actions Timeline

- **Oct 10, 2002:** Introduced in Senate
- **Oct 10, 2002:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S10375-10376)
- **Oct 10, 2002:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (text of measure as introduced: CR S10376-10377)