

Rapid-fire bump stocks banned, but 520,000 already sold

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Bump stocks had been under scrutiny since a gunman killed 58 people and injured more than 800 from his perch in a Las Vegas casino in 2017, the deadliest mass shooting in recent memory. The devices allowed the gunman, Stephen Paddock, to fire more than 1,100 rounds of ammunition in 10 minutes. Bump stocks were affixed to half of Paddock's guns.

The Justice Department had long taken the view that bump stocks fell outside federal laws banning machine guns. It reversed that position Tuesday after months of pressure from President Donald Trump and others in the aftermath of the Las Vegas shooting. "As written, this case has important implications for gun owners since, in the coming days, an estimated half a million bump stock owners will have the difficult decision of either destroying or surrendering their valuable property, or else risk felony prosecution," said Erich Pratt, executive director of Gun Owners of America.

He said the group planned to challenge the ban in court. Another rights group, the Firearms Policy Coalition, filed a lawsuit Tuesday to block the rule in federal court in Washington. The national ban comes with no "grandfather" clause to allow previously produced devices and doesn't provide any financial reimbursement. The main manufacturer of one brand in Texas stopped producing the device over the summer in anticipation of the ban. Another Texas company purchased that producer's inventory and was still selling devices for \$199 Tuesday, including within a Christmas promotion guaranteeing delivery if ordered by Thursday.

Bump stocks combined two legal devices, a plastic stock and a firearm, that together function like a machine gun. compliance. It will be haphazard and been received. I doubt there will be any "And based on how the state bans have rights group Maryland Shall Issue. Mark Pennak, president of the gun cause there's no registration," said "Compliance will be impossible because police reported zero surrenders. In January carrying a fine and jail time, Denver, where a citywide ban passed been surrendered to state police. In ban, only a handful of the devices have sachusetts, the first state to impose a thing people to surrender them. In Mas- own, but they've had little success getting people to ban the devices on their Some states and cities acted more one. has no way to determine who owns weren't tracked and the government erd by federal gun laws, their sales the view that the stocks weren't covered by federal gun laws, their sales officials had long taken effectiveness. Because strictions questioned its advocates of tougher re- Both gun owners and of criminal penalties. who don't face the threat or crush them. Those agents or to melt, shred them over to federal gun will have 90 days to either turn fires fire almost as rapidly as a machine make off-the-shelf semiautomatic ri- issued the ban Tuesday, said owners of Justice Department officials, who chased over the past eight years alone. bump stocks Americans have pur- deal with more than a half-million Now comes a bigger challenge: How modern U.S. history. to carry out the worst mass shooting in stocks, the rapid-fire attachment used Tuesday imposed a ban on bump on The Trump administration

them over to federal agents or to melt, shred or crush them. Those who don't face the threat of criminal penalties. Both gun owners and advocates of tougher restrictions questioned its effectiveness. Because officials had long taken the view that the stocks weren't covered by federal gun laws, their sales weren't tracked and the government has no way to determine who owns one.

"Compliance will be impossible because there's no registration," Mark Pennak, president, gun-rights group Maryland Shall Issue

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