



## **Ban on 3D Printed Firearms**

### **Current Law**

Texas state does not currently prohibit 3D printed firearms.

### **Problem**

3D printed guns are firearms that can be made anywhere in the world with very inexpensive materials and a 3D printer. In its simplest form, the 3D printed gun can only fire one round of ammunition without reloading.

With a more expensive printer, an individual can manufacture multiple AR-15 rifles capable of firing high-capacity magazines of .223 ammunition. The designer of these 3D printed firearms is Cody Wilson, who says his dissemination of information on how to build the gun is "protected free speech," and therefore cannot be regulated. This matter is still in litigation; however, the blueprints are already on the Internet and accessible with some searching.

3D printed guns and rifles pose an exceptional threat to the safety of our community because they allow for the acquisition of virtually untraceable firearms, which can be manufactured by persons who would not qualify for gun ownership. This "ghost market" of gun manufacturing circumvents gun purchasing laws and regulations.

### **Proposed Legislative Change**

The solution is to make 3D printed pistols and rifles illegal to possess the same way that any other homemade gun, also known as a "zip gun," is unlawful to possess in the State of Texas under the Prohibited Weapons statute of the Texas Penal Code, Section 46.05. Under this proposal, possession of a 3D printed gun would be a felony of the 3rd degree.

House Bill 38 by Rep. Terry Canales (D-Edinburg) makes it illegal for an individual to manufacture and possess a firearm without obtaining an individualized serial number from, and registering the gun with, the Texas Department of Public Safety.