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S.F. No. 5153 – 1st Engrossment - Firearms (Straw Purchasers and Trigger Activators)

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Section 1 requires the BCA and VCETs to report specified information regarding firearms crimes.

Section 2 expands the definition of “trigger activator” to include devices that allow a semiautomatic firearm to shoot more than one shot with a single pull and release of the trigger. (It is a 20-year felony to own, possess, or operate a trigger activator.)

Section 3 amends the straw purchase crime (transfer of a firearm to an ineligible person) to do the following:

- Expand the crime to apply to a transfer of any firearm (not just a pistol or a semiautomatic military-style assault weapon).
- Increase the penalty for the base-level crime from a gross misdemeanor to a two-year felony.
- Increase the maximum fine for the existing felony crime from \$10,000 to \$20,000.
- Add an alternative mental state (current law requires that the defendant know that the transferee is ineligible) of “reasonably should know.”
- Add an affirmative defense for defendants who are coerced to make the illegal transfer.