

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION K-12.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Ralph Tanner at 9:00 a.m. on February 13, 2002 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

Committee staff present: Ben Barrett, Legislative Research Department
Carolyn Rampey, Legislative Research Department
Jill Wolters, Revisor of Statutes
Ann Deitcher, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Rep. Bob Tomlinson
Scott Starkey, Pres. Of KASRO,
KS. Assoc. Of School Resource Officers,
EIDorado Police Department
Jay Fleer, Vice-Pres. KASRO
Mark Tallman, KS Assoc. of School Boards

HB 2669 - School safety, definition of weapon to include ammunition.

Representative Tomlinson spoke as a proponent of **HB 2669**. (Attachment 1).

Master Patrolman Scott Starkey of the EIDorado Police Department offered testimony in support of **HB 2669**. (Attachment 2).

Also speaking in favor of **HB 2669** was Jay Fleer, Resource Officer at Shawnee Mission Horizons High School. (Attachments 3 and 4).

Mark Tallman offered comments in regard to **HB 2669**. He said that he was not appearing as an opponent of the bill because in the past their organization had actually supported these types of additions. He did believe that they should raise a couple of concerns. Primarily their concern was the way things were continuing to be added to the list.

Mr. Tallman felt that by the bill specifying "everything," some things were bound to be left out. He pointed out that putting something on this list mandated a one-year expulsion but a school board may take action on a one-year expulsion for any other action that they believe is important. On the other hand, putting something on this list still allows the superintendent to waive that punishment at their discretion.

Following a period of questions and answers, it was decided that the bill would not be worked at this time.

The hearing on **HB 2669** was closed.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 14, 2002.

STATE OF KANSAS

BOB TOMLINSON
REPRESENTATIVE, 24TH DISTRICT
STATE CAPITOL
TOPEKA, KS 66612-1504
785 296-7633

5722 BIRCH
ROELAND PARK, KS 66205
913 831-1905



TOPEKA

HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
CHAIR: INSURANCE
MEMBER: EDUCATION COMMITTEE
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
AND INSURANCE
FISCAL OVERSIGHT

February 13, 2002

Representative Ralph Tanner
Chairman, House Education Committee
Room 426-S
State Capitol
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1504

Mr. Chairman,

I stand in support of HB 2669. I have three basic purposes. First, I support the inclusion of ammunition to the list of prohibited weapons.

Second, I would like the committee to accept the request to add pepper spray and mace to the list. Third, I wish to highlight an organization I feel does a wonderful job of keeping us safe.

House Education Committee

Date: 2/13/02

Attachment # 1

Testimony of Master Patrolman Scott W. Starkey
El Dorado Police Department
February 13, 2002

Chairman Tanner and members of the committee, my name is Scott Starkey and I appear today on behalf of the Kansas Association of School Resource Officers. I am currently the President of the Kansas Association of School Resource Officers (KASRO). KASRO appreciated the opportunity to show support for House Bill No. 2669, amending the Weapons Free School Law, K.S.A. 72-89a01.

The current Weapons Free School Law does not prohibit or mention the possession of ammunition and/or chemical weapons on school property. We support amendments to the current law that would prohibit students possessing ammunition and chemical agents on school property or at school sanctioned events.

When students possess ammunition at school, they do it for several reasons. They may include but are not limited to; intimidation of other students or faculty, to impress or show off in front of other students or faculty, or because they are too in possession or have direct access of a firearm.

Students who are in possession of chemical agents, such as pepper spray or chemical mace, pose a great safety concern in schools. Students may use chemical agents to threaten other students or faculty members. Students, with an attempt to incapacitate the School Resource Officer, School Security Officer, School Administrators or Teachers, in order to take physical control over a situation could use chemical agents. Faculty members wishing to carry chemical agents for protection pose a far less risk of getting someone injured. I am not certified to carry chemical agents nor have I ever been exposed to them. However through training I have been advised the use of deadly force by a law enforcement officer is justified, when suspects attempting to over power the officer have exposed them to chemical agents. It would be unfortunate for an event of this magnitude to occur in our schools.

Chairman Tanner and members of the committee, I strongly believe we need to do everything we can to ensure that Kansas schools are as safe as possible. Your support in prohibiting the possession of ammunition and chemical weapons by students on school property and school sanctioned events would be greatly appreciated.



House Education Committee
Date: 2-13-02

Attachment # 2

Testimony of Jay Flear

Kansas Association of School Resource Officers

House Bill No. 2669

February 13, 2002

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Jay Flear and I appear today in behalf of the Kansas Association of School Resource Officers. I currently serve as the School Resource Officer at Shawnee Mission Horizons High School, and as the Vice-President of the Kansas Association of School Resource Officers. KASRO collectively represents approximately 200 School Resource Officers statewide. We appreciate this opportunity to express our support for House Bill No. 2669, amending the Weapons Free School Law, K.S.A. 72-89a01.

Currently the Weapons Free School Law does not prohibit the possession of ammunition and chemical weapons on school property. We support amendments to the current law that would prohibit such.

Ammunition possessed by students at school could be used in order to intimidate staff members and other students. It stands to reason that if a student has access to ammunition, he or she may very well have access to a firearm.

Chemical weapons, such as pepper spray and chemical mace pose a significant threat to the staff and students in schools. These items are easily accessible and do not require practice or training to use. Since chemical weapons do not have a high probability of directly causing death or great bodily harm, may be used with less forethought than a deadly weapon. I, like many Law Enforcement Officers am certified to carry pepper spray. In order to receive certification on pepper spray, I was required to be exposed to the chemical. The exposure caused excruciating pain, involuntary closing of the eyes, and an extreme burning sensation to the skin. Some officers are almost completely debilitated when exposed to pepper spray in the controlled training environment. If a person intended to initiate a deadly attack upon a school, and has access to chemical weapons, he or she may attempt to use the chemicals to disarm a School Resource Officer or Campus Security Officer in order to obtain that officer's weapon.

Additionally, during the 1999-2000 school year, a discharge of pepper spray that was determined to be accidental caused the evacuation of Blue Valley Northwest High School in Overland Park, Kansas. The incident required medical attention for some students who were significantly affected by exposure to the chemical. Decontamination for exposure to pepper spray required flushing the exposed area with copious amounts of water for at least 20 minutes.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I am convinced that in the State of Kansas we must implement strong safety measures to protect our students and school faculty. The law enforcement community would seek your support in prohibiting the possession of ammunition and chemical weapons on school property.

use Education Committee

Date: 2/13/02

Attachment # 3



COMMITTED TO KANSAS KIDS!

House Education Committee

Date: 2/13/02

Attachment # 4-1

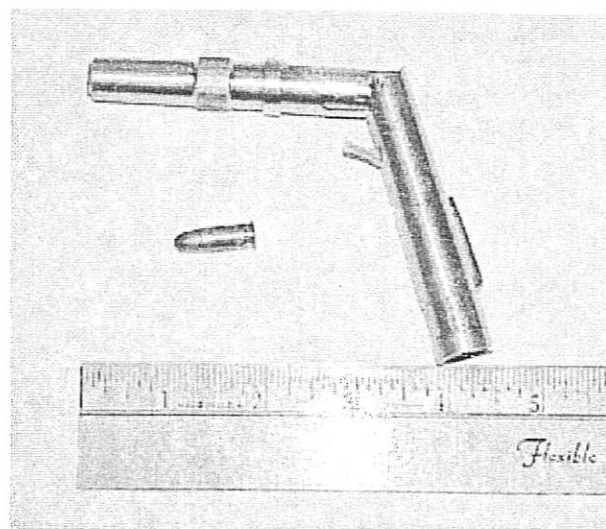
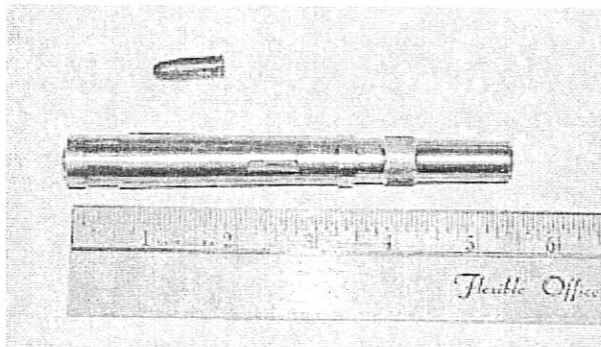
"Stainless Pistol Pen"

Deputies in Mecklenburg, N.C., who were manning a metal detector at the entrance of the courthouse in May 2001, became suspicious of a man who set off the device.

The man, who was there to pay a traffic fine, appeared nervous to the deputies, and handed over a magazine with .25-caliber ammo as he approached the checkpoint, which was clearly posted as prohibiting weapons and that violators would be prosecuted (he claimed that the ammo was for a gun he'd left in his car). When the magnetometer "beeped," the man was asked to empty his pockets, and Deputy James Wilson recognized the pen-gun for what it was, since his father reportedly had one. Deputies Robert Sherwin and Scott White, who were also present, seized the weapon.

Pen-pistols, such as these, appear to be easily available and typically measure just under 6 inches (with a 2-inch barrel). One such model (the "Stinger") must be folded in half to fire, forming a "handle" to grip -- and a little "trigger" even drops down where a single round can be fired.

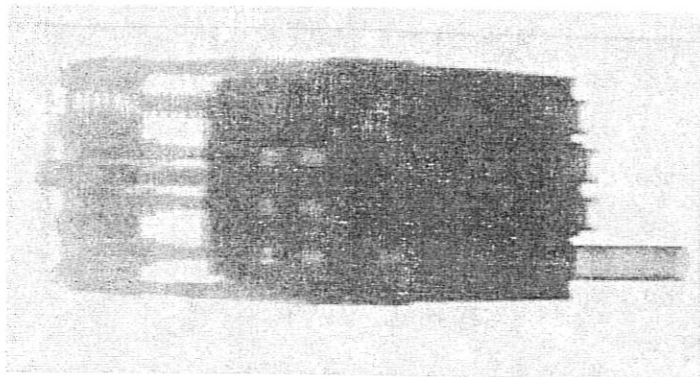
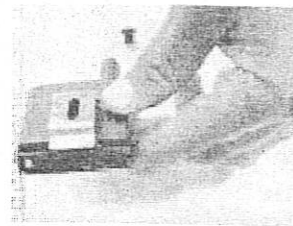
Reportedly, pen-pistols are available in .25-caliber (such as the one found in N.C.), as well as .22LR and .380ACP.

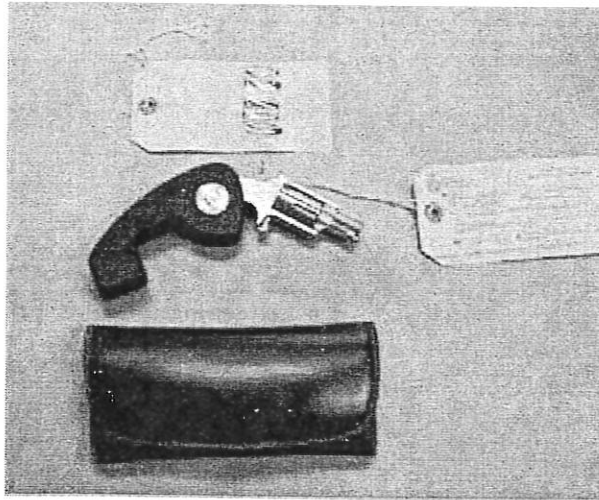


This black cell phone is approximately 14-cm high (including the antenna), 5-cm wide, has 13 black numerical push buttons, 2 red buttons and a green light-up display.

The top part of the cell phone gun has 4 barrels capable of shooting 4 .22 short cal. rounds - the fourth barrel disguised as an antenna. The weapon is cocked using a bar located in the lower half of the device. After the gun is cocked, four of the buttons will function as triggers.

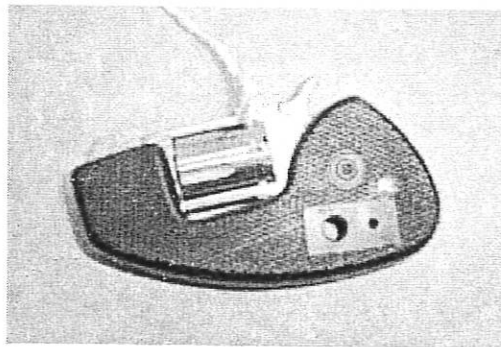
The phone-gun comes with a black leather case and a metal belt clip allowing this secret firearm to be worn anywhere in public.





This folding 5 shot .22-cal handgun was concealed "loaded and ready for use" in the ordinary eye glass case pictured above. The butt of the gun is on a swivel that allows the trigger guard and barrel to fold into the butt. A cut-out in the handle accommodates the cylinder.

Below is the weapon in its folded state.

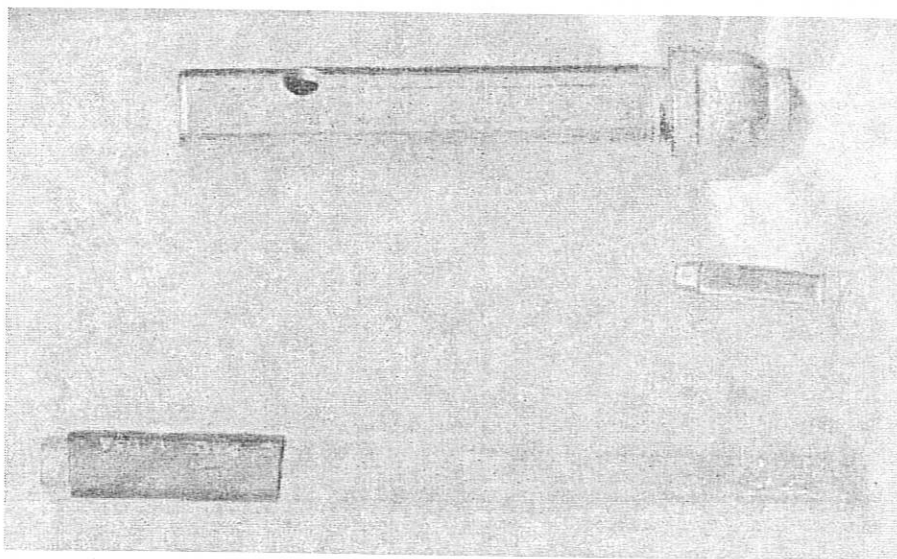


ZIP GUN

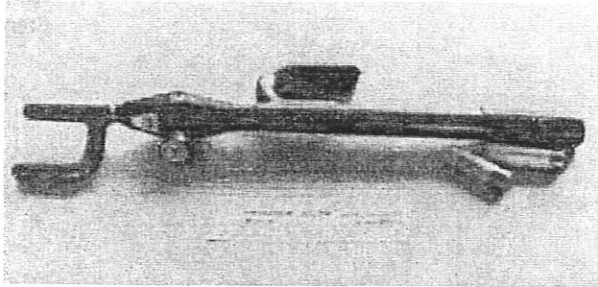
Finding pieces of metal pipe and tubing like these on a suspect may indicate the makings of a zip gun, among the most common improvised firearms.

Here a .357 Magnum round or similar cartridge is inserted snugly into the smaller-diameter tube. That "loaded" tube is then inserted into the larger pipe, which has an end cap with a piece of pointed metal inside it. When a suspect slams the end cap back against a hard surface, the pointed metal strikes the primer of the round like a firing pin and discharges the weapon.

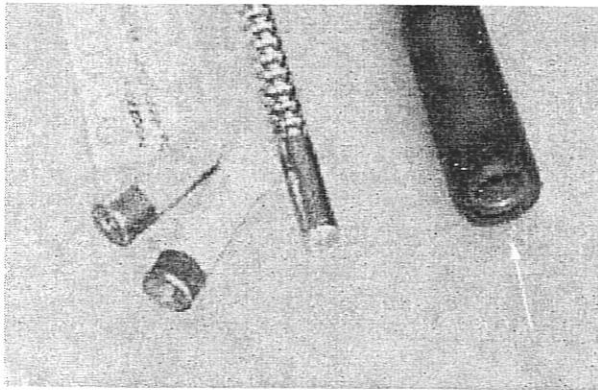
The zip gun can then be disassembled and the parts discarded in different locations, with little chance they will be put back together and identified as a weapon.



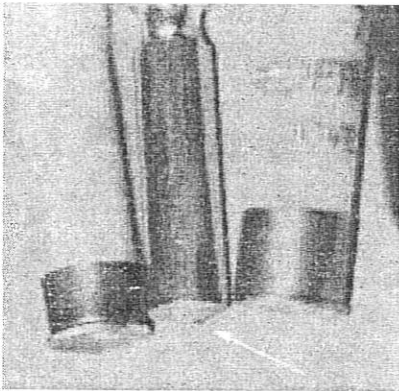
"The Club" Shotgun



This normal looking "Club" car steering wheel locking device has been modified to fire shotgun rounds



The "handle" end of the Club has been hollowed out to act as a shotgun barrel



When the lock end of the Club is pulled back, the tip of the metal shaft inside--which has been modified to act as a firing pin--is pulled back from the end of the round. The weapon is then fired by manually slamming the shaft into the end of the round.

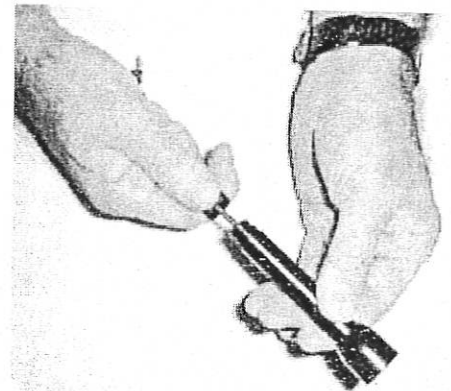
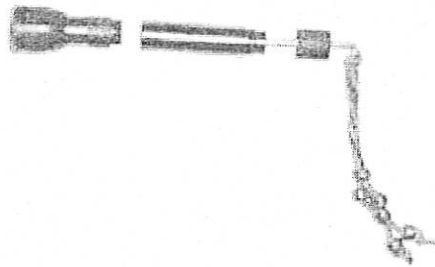
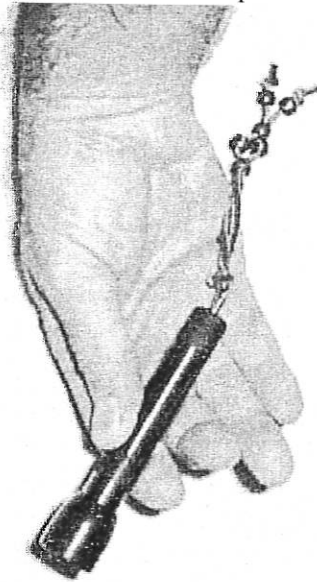
Commercially Available Mini-Flashlight Gun

This small but potentially deadly weapon looks like a normal 4-inch mini flashlight, but in fact it's a gun capable of firing a .380 round.

The gun is loaded by unscrewing the front lens area and inserting a single round. When the back end of the flashlight is screwed closed the firing pin, which runs the length of the less than 2-inch-long shaft, is held in place putting the gun on *safety.*

When the back end is unscrewed, the firing pin is freed rendering the gun fire-ready. The pin automatically releases itself when it's pulled back, discharging the round.

This commercially available firearm also comes with a blunt metal end that can be used to replace the lens cap area so the weapon looks like a mini Kubotan.



Disguised/Concealed firearms photographs and descriptions courtesy of:

Calibre Press, Inc
P.O. Box 115003
Carrollton TX, 75011
www.calibrepres.com

Their permission to duplicate their images in order to secure the safety of Kansas' students is greatly appreciated.