

HB 232 -- FIREARM OFFENSES

SPONSOR: Basye

This bill states that a person commits the offense of defacing a firearm if he or she knowingly alters, defaces, destroys, mars, or removes the manufacturer's serial number, or other identification mark required by law, of any firearm.

A person commits the offense of possession of a defaced firearm if he or she possesses such a firearm. However, it shall be an affirmative defense to this offense if the person reported the possession to the police or a government agency prior to arrest; or the firearm was manufactured before any law requiring a serial number or other identification mark existed.

This bill also changes the penalty for the offense of possession of a defaced firearm from a class A misdemeanor to a B felony. This offense is a class D misdemeanor if the manufacturer's serial number is covered or obstructed but still retrievable.

This bill is similar to HB 1680 (2020).