

Routine Proceedings

[English]

CRIMINAL CODE

MEASURE TO AMEND

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-283, an Act to amend the Criminal Code (control of firearms).

Mr. Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House that the hon. member shall have leave to introduce the bill?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Mr. Allmand: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to strengthen our gun control laws and to make them more effective in screening out applicants for the firearms acquisition certificate who are dangerous, unstable or irresponsible.

The bill would implement a two week waiting period for those who apply for the firearms acquisition certificate. It would require the signature of two other citizens who would attest to the responsibility of the applicant. It would also require the firearms acquisition certificate for the purchase of ammunition. It would require that the permit be valid for only two years rather than five years so that on renewal the police would have an opportunity to reinvestigate the applicant for the firearms acquisition certificate.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

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PETITIONS

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, I have a petition that has been certified correct under the Standing Orders. This petition relates to the goods and services tax. It has been signed by over 400 Canadians and others who express their concern with the government's proposal for the goods and services tax. These petitioners call upon the House of Commons to withdraw this tax and to institute a program of fair taxation.

I should point out, Mr. Speaker, that this petition has been signed by people in my riding from Thompson, Easterville, Lynn Lake, The Pas, Flin Flon, Snow Lake, Churchill, Ilford, Bissett, Cranberry Portage, Poplar River and Manigotagan.

In addition, other Canadians from Surrey, B.C., St. Eleanor's, P.E.I., Southport, P.E.I., Bathurst, New Brunswick, Shediac, New Brunswick, Campbellton, New Brunswick, Moncton, New Brunswick, Saint John, New Brunswick, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Greenwood, Nova Scotia, Toronto, Ontario, Oshawa, Ontario, Edmonton, Alberta, Charlottetown, P.E.I.

In addition, people from Florida, California, Argentina and Australia have signed this petition against the goods and services tax, proving that it is unpopular throughout the whole world.

Mr. Robert E. Skelly (Comox—Alberni): Madam Speaker, I have a petition certified under Article 36 of our Standing Orders from 1,160 Canadians who call on the government to reject the current proposal for a goods and services tax, to reform the taxation system so that there is an effective minimum tax on the wealthy individuals in corporations and cause the government to cease with the proposal which will shift the tax burden onto ordinary Canadians through a regressive consumption tax, instead of through real tax reform.

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Madam Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36, I am pleased to present a petition signed by a number of Canadians who object to the federal government's proposed goods and services tax or GST, which should really stand for the grief and suffering tax.

They urge the government to immediately withdraw this ridiculous proposal and replace it with meaningful and fair tax reform.

HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina—Lumsden): Madam Speaker, I have the duty to submit a petition signed by a number of residents of Regina and several other communities in Saskatchewan in which they deplore the fact that the government accepted the recommendation of the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs that the Canadian Human Rights Act be amended to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in all areas of federal jurisdiction.

Therefore, the petitioners pray and call upon Parliament and the government to bring in such an amendment to the Human Rights Act without any further delay.