- 1 HB579
- 2 138774-2
- 3 By Representatives Greer and Williams (D)
- 4 RFD: Commerce and Small Business
- 5 First Read: 20-MAR-12

1	138774-2:n	:03/16/2012:DA/mcw LRS2012-1701R1
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8	SYNOPSIS:	Under existing law, the State Fire Marshal
9		is required to charge certain fees for performing
10		certain tasks and issuing certain licenses and
11		permits.
12		This bill would provide further for permits;
13		fees; the use of pyrotechnic devices before a
14		proximate audience; permissible use of fireworks;
15		sale of fireworks; authorization for retail sales
16		of permissible items of fireworks; authority of the
17		State Fire Marshal to seize and destroy illegal
18		fireworks, and the validity of city ordinances.
19		This bill would provide for the governing
20		body of any municipality to authorize law
21		enforcement to issue a summons when any municipal
22		ordinance prohibits the sale or use of aerial
23		devices and audible devices pursuant to law.
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25		A BILL
26		TO BE ENTITLED
27		AN ACT

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To amend Sections 8-17-210, 8-17-211, 8-17-216, 2 8-17-216.1, 8-17-217, 8-17-218, 8-17-219, 8-17-220, 8-17-222, 3 8-17-225, 8-17-226, and 11-45-9.1, of the Code of Alabama 5 1975, relating to the State Fire Marshal; to provide further 6 for permits; to increase fees; to provide further for the use 7 of pyrotechnic devices before a proximate audience; to provide further for the permissible use of fireworks; to provide 8 further for the sale of fireworks; to provide further for the 9 10 authorization for retail sales of permissible items of fireworks; to provide further for the authority of the State 11 12 Fire Marshal to seize and destroy illegal fireworks; to 13 provide further for definitions; and to provide further for 14 the effect on the validity of city ordinances; and to amend 15 Section 11-45-9.1 of the Code of Alabama 1975, relating to issuance of summons; to allow when a municipal ordinance 16 17 prohibits the sale or use of aerial devices and audible devices pursuant to law. 18

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Sections 8-17-210, 8-17-211, 8-17-216, 8-17-216.1, 8-17-217, 8-17-218, 8-17-219, 8-17-220, 8-17-222, 8-17-225, 8-17-226, and 11-45-9.1 of the Code of Alabama 1975, are amended to read as follows:

"\$8-17-210.

"As used in this article, the following terms shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, unless clearly indicated otherwise:

1	"(1) AERIAL DEVICES. Any type of DOT Class C,
2	Consumer Firework listed in the APA 87-1, Section 3.1.2 and
3	<u>3.5.</u>
4	"(2) ANNUAL RETAILER. Any person engaged in the
5	business of making sales of fireworks to consumers within the
6	State of Alabama throughout the entire calendar year from
7	January 1 through December 31.
8	"(3) APA 87-1. The 2001 American Pyrotechnic
9	Standard for Construction and Approval for Transportation of
10	Fireworks, Novelties, and Theatrical Pyrotechnics.
11	"(4) AUDIBLE GROUND DEVICES. Any type of DOT Class C
12	Consumer Firework listed in APA 87-1, Section 3.1.3.
13	" $\frac{(1)}{(5)}$ DISTRIBUTOR. Any person engaged in the
14	business of making sales of fireworks for resale to all
15	holders of the required Alabama permits who in turn shall
16	resell to any permit holder; or any person who receives,
17	brings, or imports any fireworks of any kind into the State of
18	Alabama, except to a holder of an Alabama manufacturer's or
19	distributor's permit.
20	" (2) (6) D.O.T. CLASS C COMMON <u>Consumer</u> FIREWORKS.
21	All articles of fireworks as are now or hereafter classified
22	as D.O.T. Class C $\frac{1.4G\ Consumer}{1.4G\ Consumer}$ fireworks in the
23	regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation for the
24	transportation of explosive and other dangerous articles
25	including aerial devices, audible devices, and non-aerial
26	devices.

Τ	"(/) INSURANCE. Any current commercial general
2	liability and product liability insurance, including
3	contractual liability insurance, with minimum primary policy
4	limits of not less than two million dollars (\$2,000,000)
5	insuring against personal injury, bodily injury, and property
6	damage. All insurers shall be admitted carriers in the United
7	States, and licensed to do business in each state in which it
8	operates. All insurance shall be A.M. Best rating of at least
9	an A-VIII.
10	" $\frac{(3)}{(8)}$ MANUFACTURER. Any person engaged in the
11	making, manufacture, or construction of fireworks of any kind
12	within the State of Alabama.
13	"(9) NFPA 1123. The National Fire Protection
14	Association, Code for Fireworks Display, as adopted by the
15	State Fire Marshal.
16	"(10) NFPA 1124. The National Protection
17	Association, Code for the Manufacture, Transportation,
18	Storage, and Retail Sales of Fireworks and Pyrotechnic
19	Articles, 2006 Edition, or later edition adopted by the State
20	Fire Marshal.
21	"(11) NON-AERIAL DEVICES. Any type of DOT Class C
22	Consumer Firework that is a ground-based or handheld sparkling
23	device, including items listed in APA 87-1, Sections 3.1.1,
24	and 3.5.
25	"(12) NOVELTIES. Any device listed in APA 87-1,
26	Section 3.2, including, without limitation, the following:
27	"a. Party poppers.

1	"b. Snappers.
2	"c. Toy smoke devices.
3	"d. Snake, glow worms.
4	"e. Wire sparklers, dipped sticks.
5	" $\frac{(4)}{(13)}$ PERMIT. The written authority of the State
6	Fire Marshal issued under the authority of this article.
7	" $\frac{(5)}{(14)}$ PERSON. Includes any corporation,
8	association, copartnership or one or more individuals.
9	"(6) RETAILER. Any person engaged in the business of
10	making sales of fireworks to consumers within the State of
11	Alabama during a calendar year from January 1 through December
12	31.
13	" $\frac{(7)}{(15)}$ SALE. An exchange of articles or fireworks
14	for money, including barter, exchange, gift, or offer thereof,
15	and each such transaction made by any person, whether as
16	principal proprietor, salesman, agent, association,
17	copartnership, or one or more individuals.
18	" $\frac{(8)}{(16)}$ FIREWORKS SEASONS. The dates of June 20
19	through July 10 and December 15 through January 2 of each year
20	shall be the only periods when seasonal retailers may sell
21	fireworks.
22	" $\frac{(9)}{(17)}$ SEASONAL RETAILER. Any person engaged in
23	the business of making sales of fireworks to consumers within
24	the State of Alabama during the fireworks season(s) only, from
25	permanent buildings or temporary or moveable stands.
26	"(10)(18) SPECIAL FIREWORKS. All articles of
27	fireworks that are classified as Class B explosives, 1.3G

display fireworks, in the regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation, including all articles classified as fireworks other than those classified as Class C Consumer Fireworks.

"(19) THEATRICAL FIREWORKS. All theatrical pyrotechnics that are approved as UN0431, Articles Pyrotechnic and are commonly referred to as professional 1.4G Indoor Pyrotechnics.

" $\frac{(11)}{(20)}$ WHOLESALER. Any person engaged in the business of making sales of fireworks to any other person engaged in the business of making sales at seasonal retail.

"\$8-17-211.

manufacture, sell, offer for sale, or ship or cause to be shipped into or within the State of Alabama, except as herein provided, any item of fireworks or pyrotechnics for use before a proximate audience, without first having secured the required applicable permit, as a manufacturer, distributor, wholesaler, annual retailer, or seasonal retailer, from the State Fire Marshal. Possession of a permit is a condition prerequisite to manufacturing, selling, or offering for sale, or shipping or causing to be shipped any fireworks or pyrotechnics for use before a proximate audience into or within the State of Alabama, except as herein provided. This provision applies to nonresidents as well as residents of the State of Alabama. Mail orders where consumers purchase any fireworks or pyrotechnics for use before a proximate audience

through the mail or receive any fireworks or pyrotechnics for use before a proximate audience in Alabama by mail, parcel service, or other carrier are prohibited. A sales clerk must be on duty to serve consumers at the time of purchase or delivery. All fireworks or pyrotechnics for use before a proximate audience sold and delivered to consumers within the State of Alabama must take place within the State of Alabama and be sold and delivered only by an individual, firm, partnership, or corporation holding the proper Alabama permit and all fireworks or pyrotechnics for use before a proximate audience coming into the state, manufactured, sold, or stored within the state shall be under the supervision of the State Fire Marshal as provided for in this article.

"(b) Prior to engaging in the manufacture or sale within the State of Alabama, or shipment into the State of Alabama, of any fireworks or pyrotechnics for use before a proximate audience, each person making shipment or delivery or receiving any fireworks or pyrotechnics for use before a proximate audience into or within the State of Alabama, must make application on forms secured from the State Fire Marshal for a permit or permits required under this article for each location at which fireworks or pyrotechnics for use before a proximate audience are to be offered for sale.

"(c) A manufacturer's permit issued under this article shall be subject to rules and regulations promulgated by the State Fire Marshal to govern the manufacture of fireworks or pyrotechnics for use before a proximate audience

as in the judgment of the State Fire Marshal the public welfare may require.

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"(d) The decision of the State Fire Marshal as to what type of permit or permits shall be required of each person shall be final. The State Fire Marshal may deny a permit to an applicant or revoke a permit if the State Fire Marshal has knowledge or reason to believe the safety standards and conditions of this article are not or cannot be met by the applicant. No permit shall be issued to a person under the age of 18 years. All permits shall be for the calendar year or any fraction thereof and shall expire on December 31 of each year, two days of grace shall be allowed holders of permits after expiration thereof. Only one seasonal retailer permit shall be required for a full calendar year and it shall be valid for both fireworks seasons, provided that the building is not moved from the location where it was originally permitted and no substantial structural or environmental changes have occurred. A seasonal retailer permit may be issued after July tenth for the remaining fireworks season of that calendar year. All permits issued must be displayed in their place of business. No permit provided for herein shall be transferable nor shall a person be permitted to operate under a permit issued to any other person or under a permit issued for another location, unless transfer shall have been approved by the State Fire Marshal. The holder of an annual retailer permit shall not be required to obtain a seasonal retailer permit.

1	"(e) The State Fire Marshal shall charge <u>and collect</u>
2	for permits issued as follows: and shall retain the permit
3	fees be paid to the State Fire Marshal's Fund. The proceeds
4	shall be used to enforce the provisions of this law.
5	"(f) The permits shall be issued as follows:
6	"(1) Manufacturer, two thousand dollars (\$2,000).
7	"(2) Distributor, two thousand dollars (\$2,000).
8	"(3) Wholesaler, seven hundred dollars (\$700).
9	"(4) <u>Annual</u> Retailer, two hundred dollars (\$200).:
10	"a. Annual retailer of aerial devices, non-aerial
11	devices, and novelties, two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) per
12	<pre>location.</pre>
13	"b. Annual retailer of non-aerial devices and
14	novelties, one hundred dollars (\$100) per location.
15	"c. Annual retailer of novelties, fifty dollars
16	(\$50) per location.
17	"(5) Seasonal Retailer, two hundred dollars (\$200).:
18	"a. Seasonal retailer of aerial devices, non-aerial
19	devices, and novelties, two hundred dollars (\$200).
20	"b. Seasonal retailer of non-aerial devices and
21	novelties, fifty dollars (\$50) per location.
22	"c. Seasonal retailer of novelties, twenty-five
23	dollars (\$25) per location.
24	"d. All seasonal retailer permits obtained after
25	July 10 of any calendar year shall be half of the permit fee
26	<u>listed herein.</u>

1	" (6) Seasonal Retailer after July 10, one hundred
2	dollars (\$100).
3	"(7)(6) Display permit for proximate audiences of
4	special or theatrical fireworks, fifty dollars (\$50).
5	"(7) Shooter's permit, required for the display of
6	special or theatrical fireworks, one hundred dollars (\$100). A
7	shooter's permit shall be valid for a two-year period from the
8	date of issuance.
9	" (f) (q) Only holders of a <u>an annual</u> retailer or
10	seasonal retailer permit may engage in the retail sale of
11	permitted items as defined in Section 8-17-217 aerial devices,
12	non-aerial devices, and novelties, in any quantity, to
13	consumers.
14	"(g)(h) A holder of a manufacturer's permit is not
15	required to have any additional permit or permits in order to
16	sell to distributors, wholesalers, retailers, or seasonal
17	retailers.
18	"(h)(i) A record of all sales by manufacturers,
19	distributors, or wholesalers must be kept showing the names
20	and addresses of purchasers. All fees collected for the
21	permits shall be paid into the Fire Marshal Revolving Fund for
22	the enforcement of this article. The State Fire Marshal may
23	designate a deputy fire marshal as the "fireworks enforcement
24	officer" who shall have the responsibility of directing
25	enforcement of the state fireworks laws.
26	"(i)(j) The State Fire Marshal is charged with the
27	enforcement of this article and may call upon any state or

county or city peace officer for assistance in the enforcement of this article. The fire marshal is not authorized to promulgate rules or regulations in conflict with or that go beyond the scope or intent of this article.

"\$8-17-216.

- "(a) Nothing in this article shall be construed as applying to the shipping, sale, possession, and use of special fireworks for public displays by holders of a permit for a public display to be conducted in accordance with the rules and regulations governing this type of fireworks by the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms Division of the United States Treasury Department, and their requirements met and any permit or license required by them secured before application for a state display permit is made.
- "(b) The State Fire Marshal shall have the sole and exclusive authority to issue permits for Special Fireworks or Professional 1.4G Pyrotechnics and may establish a training program which holders of such permit shall successfully complete to receive a permit.
- "(b)(c) Application for a state permit for public display of special fireworks must be made shall:
- "(1) Be made in writing to the State Fire Marshal at least 10 days before the display date.
- "(2) Include proof of training as a professional operator for special fireworks or professional 1.4G indoor pyrotechnics satisfactory to the State Fire Marshal's Office.

"(3) Include proof of insurance of at least two million dollars (\$2,000,000) for the special fireworks operator with additional insureds for the property where the display is to occur, the city, the county, the group or entity sponsoring the display, and other additional insureds may be required per the State Fire Marshal's Office.

"The State Fire Marshal may accept an application for a state permit for public display of special fireworks less than 10 days before the display date if accompanied by a fee of double the amount otherwise required. The application shall show that the proposed display is to be so located and supervised that it shall not be hazardous to property and that it shall not endanger human lives. If the display is to be performed within the limits of a municipality, the application shall so state and shall bear the signed approval of the chief supervisory officials of the fire and police departments of such municipality. Permits issued shall be limited to the time specified therein and shall not be transferable.

"(d) All special fireworks and 1.4G indoor

pyrotechnics shall be stored, handled, and used in accordance
with NFPA 1123.

"(c)(e) Possession and sale of special fireworks shall be limited to a holder of a federal license issued for display fireworks. Possession of special fireworks for resale to holders of a permit for public display shall be confined to holders of a distributor's permit only. Provided, however, a distributor's permit shall not be required where the special

fireworks are for public display to be performed solely for

The Alabama June Jam, Inc.; and provided further that the

application for the state permit for public display shall show

that the proposed display is to be performed solely for The

Alabama June Jam, Inc.

"(d) (f) Nothing in this article shall apply to Class C firework displays.

"\$8-17-216.1.

"(a) The use of pyrotechnics before a proximate audience shall comply with the requirements set out in the latest edition of the National Fire Protection Association's Standard for the Use of Pyrotechnics Before a Proximate Audience (NFPA 1126) as shall be adopted by the State Fire Marshal. For purposes of this article, the term "proximate audience" shall mean an indoor audience closer to pyrotechnic devices than permitted by the National Fire Protection Association's Code for Fireworks Display (NFPA 1123) NFPA 1123.

"(b) No person shall use pyrotechnics before a proximate audience without first obtaining a permit therefor from the State Fire Marshal. An application for a permit for the use of pyrotechnics at an event with a proximate audience shall be filed with the State Fire Marshal not less than 10 days prior to the planned date of the event. The State Fire Marshal may accept an application for a permit under this section less than 10 days before the planned date of the event

- if accompanied by a fee of double the amount otherwise required.
- "(c) The request for a permit under subsection (b)

 shall be in the form and manner prescribed by the State Fire

 Marshal. The permit shall be in addition to any locally

 required permit or approval.
- 7 "(d) A fee of one hundred dollars (\$100) per event 8 shall be submitted with each application.
 - "(e) Where more than one event is to take place at the same location during the same calendar date, a separate application shall be filed for each event. The application fee for the second and subsequent events on the same calendar date shall be fifty dollars (\$50) per event.
 - "(f) The State Fire Marshal may prescribe such other and additional requirements associated with the use of pyrotechnics before a proximate audience as are deemed necessary for the safety of property and persons present at the proximate event location.
 - "(g) All pyrotechnics found at an event with a proximate audience which does not have a permit shall be confiscated and destroyed by the State Fire Marshal or his or her designee.
 - "(h) All fees collected pursuant to this section shall be paid into the Fire Marshal Revolving Fund for the enforcement of this article.
- 26 "\\$8-17-217.

"(a) It shall be unlawful for an individual, firm, partnership, or corporation to possess, sell, or use within the State of Alabama, or ship into the State of Alabama, except as provided in Section 8-17-216, any pyrotechnics commonly known as "fireworks" other than items now or hereafter classified as Class C common consumer fireworks by the United States Department of Transportation including aerial devices, audible devices, and non-aerial devices and/or those items that comply with the construction, chemical composition, and labeling regulations promulgated by the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission and permitted for use by the general public under their regulations.

- "(b) Permitted items designed to produce an audible effect are confined to small ground items which include firecrackers containing not over 50 milligrams of explosive composition and aerial devices containing not over 130 milligrams of explosive composition. Propelling or expelling charge consisting of a mixture of charcoal, sulfur and potassium nitrate are not considered as designed to produce an audible effect.
- "(c) Items permitted and for which a permit is required shall include related items not classified by the United States Department of Transportation as common consumer fireworks, but identified under their regulations as trick noisemakers, toy novelties, toy smoke devices and sparklers and shall include toy snakes, snappers, auto burglar alarms, smoke balls, smoke novelty items, and wire sparklers

1 containing not over 100 grams of composition per item.

2 Sparklers containing any chlorate or perchlorate salts may not

3 exceed five grams of composition per item.

"§8-17-218**.**

"All items of fireworks which exceed the two grain limit of D.O.T. Class C common Consumer fireworks as to explosive composition, such items being commonly referred to as "illegal ground salutes" designed to produce an audible effect, are expressly prohibited from shipment into, manufacture, possession, sale, and use within the State of Alabama for any purpose. This subsection shall not affect display fireworks authorized by this article.

"§8-17-219.

"No permissible article of fireworks or related items defined in Section 8-17-217 shall be sold, offered for sale or possessed within the state or used within the state, except as provided in Section 8-17-216 unless it shall be properly named to conform to the nomenclature of Section 8-17-217. Items must be identified on the shipping cases and by imprinting on the article or retail sales container or unit "D.O.T. Class C Common Consumer Fireworks" or other appropriate classification or identification as may be applicable or required by any federal agency having jurisdiction over fireworks on related items; such imprint to be of sufficient size and so positioned as to be readily recognized by law enforcement authorities and the general public.

1 "\$8-17-220.

"Permissible items of fireworks, defined in Section 8-17-217, may be sold at retail to residents of the State of Alabama. The term "fireworks" shall not include toy paper pistol caps which contain less than twenty-five hundredths grains of explosive compounds, model rockets, emergency signal flares, matches, cone, bottle, tube, and other type serpentine pop-off novelties, trick matches and cigarette loads, the sale and use of which shall be permitted at all times without a special fireworks permit.

"\$8-17-222.

"It shall be unlawful to offer for sale or to sell any fireworks to children under the age of 16 years unless accompanied by an adult or to any intoxicated or irresponsible person. Any person purchasing fireworks shall be required to show a valid driver's license or state approved identification card. It shall be unlawful to explode or ignite fireworks within 600 300 feet of any church, hospital, asylum, public school, or any enclosed building, or within 200 feet of where fireworks are stored, sold, or offered for sale except as provided for in this section. Any display of pyrotechnics at a school or on school grounds shall be licensed as a public display by the State Fire Marshal pursuant to Section 8-17-216. No person shall ignite or discharge any permissible articles of fireworks within or throw the same from a motor vehicle while within nor shall any person place or throw any

ignited article of fireworks into or at such a motor vehicle, or at or near any person or group of people.

3 "\\$8-17-225.

"The State Fire Marshal shall seize as contraband any fireworks other than the permitted "Class C Common Consumer Fireworks" and related items defined in Section 8-17-217 or "special fireworks" for public displays as provided in Section 8-17-216, which are sold, displayed, used or possessed in violation of this article. The fire marshal is authorized to destroy any illegal fireworks so seized.

"§8-17-226.

"This article shall in no wise affect the validity of any city ordinance further restricting the sale or use of fireworks aerial devices and audible devices, including the authority to cite violations in accordance with Section 11-45-9.1; provided, however, no city or county ordinance shall conflict with the provisions related in this amendatory act to the transportation, storage, retail, sale, possession, or use of non-aerial devices or novelties.

"\$11-45-9.1.

"(a) By ordinance, the governing body of any municipality may authorize any law enforcement officer of a municipality or any law enforcement officer of the state, in lieu of placing persons under custodial arrest, to issue a summons and complaint to any person charged with violating any municipal littering ordinance; municipal ordinance which prohibits animals from running at large, which shall include

leash laws and rabies control laws; any municipal ordinance which prohibits the sale or use of aerial devices and audible devices prescribed in Section 8-17-10 et seq. or any Class C misdemeanor or violation not involving violence, threat of violence, or alcohol or drugs.

"(b) Such summons and complaint shall be on a form approved by the governing body of the municipality and shall contain the name of the court; the name of the defendant; a description of the offense, including the municipal ordinance number; the date and time of the offense; the place of the offense; signature of the officer issuing the citation; the scheduled court date and time; an explanation to the person cited of the ways in which he may settle his case; and a signature block for the magistrate to sign upon the officer's oath and affirmation given prior to trial.

"(c) Whenever any person is arrested for a violation of any of the enumerated offenses, the arresting officer shall take the name and address of such person and any other identifying information and issue a summons and complaint to the person charged. Such officer shall release the person from custody upon his written promise to appear in court at the designated time and place as evidenced by his signature on the summons and complaint, without any condition relating to the deposit of security.

"(d) If any person refuses to give a written recognizance to appear by placing his signature on the summons and complaint, the officer shall take that person into custody

and bring him before any officer or official who is authorized to approve bond.

- "(e) Before implementation of the summons and complaint procedure, the governing body shall adopt a schedule of fines for first, second, and subsequent offenders of the alleged violation of such ordinances, which shall be posted in a place conspicuous to the public within the court clerk's office and the police department.
- "(f)(1) When a person is charged with one of the enumerated ordinance violations, he may elect to appear before the municipal court magistrate, or where the municipal court has been abolished, the district court magistrate, within the time specified in the summons and complaint, and upon entering a plea of guilty, pay the fine and court costs. A plea of guilty shall only be accepted by the magistrate after the defendant has executed a notice and waiver of rights form.
- "(2) In the alternative, the defendant shall have the option of depositing the required bail, and upon a plea of not guilty, shall be entitled to a trial as authorized by law.
- "(g) The court clerk or magistrate shall receive and issue receipts for cash bail from persons who wish to be heard in court; enter the time of their appearance on the court docket; and notify the arresting officer and witnesses, if any, to be present.
- "(h) If the defendant fails to appear as specified in the summons and complaint, the judge or magistrate having jurisdiction of the offense may issue a warrant for his arrest

commanding that he be brought before the court to answer the
charge contained on the summons and complaint. In addition,
any person who willfully violates his written promise or bond
to appear, given in accordance with this section, shall be
guilty of the separate offense of failing to appear, a
misdemeanor, regardless of the disposition of the charge upon
which he was originally arrested.

"(i) All fines and forfeitures collected upon a conviction or upon the forfeiture of bail of any person charged with a violation of such ordinances, shall be remitted to the general fund of the municipality; provided, however, fines, forfeitures, and court costs assessed and collected in district court shall be distributed as now provided by law."

Section 2. This act shall become effective immediately following its passage and approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.