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Senators Vote To Strengthen Firearms Law



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The Legislature reconvened yesterday for two hours, passing a bill excluding the U.S. government from acquiring property here by eminent domain and approving a gun control amendment as a rider.

Major changes in the amended gun control chapter include definitions of various types of weapons, gun registration procedures and gun use by minors.

Sixteen senators voted unanimously in favor of the gun control change. Five senators were not present - Paul Calvo, William Flores, Al Ysrael, Adrian Sanchez and Carl T.C. Gutierrez.

"Firearm" is defined as "any weapon, the operating force of which is an explosive, including pistols, revolvers, rifles, shotguns, machine guns, automatic rifles, noxious gas projectors, mortars, bombs, cannon (sic) and submachine guns."

Antique rifles, revolvers, pistols and other weapons defined as firearms which are collectors items would have to be registered with the Department of Public Safety.

The bill now goes to Gov. Camacho for signing or veto.

Another change in gun control policy is the

requirement to have an identification card to carry a concealed weapon.

Minors over 10 years old would be permitted to use firearms only in the presence and under the direct control of an adult possessing a valid identification card.

After passage of the gun control amendment rider and the eminent domain bill, the senators adjourned until March 11.

Earlier yesterday the Legislature listened to seven students from St. Anthony School in Tamuning present speeches commemorating National Catholic Education Week.

Sen. Frank Lujan said yesterday he intends to initiate legislation that will permit the Department of Education to hire qualified permanent Filipino residents as teachers in the public schools.

Public school teachers here must be U.S. citizens according to current law:

"This local prohibition excludes a large group of qualified people in the Filipino community who have been educated in the outstanding universities in the Philippines," Lujan said.

"The time has come for Guam to look to its internal resources to satisfy its increasing need for qualified educators," he added.