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Entrant-gun law is restored

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PHOENIX — Gov. Janet Napolitano signed legislation Friday designed to restore a state law keeping illegal entrants and many foreign temporary visitors from having firearms.

The measure revamps a four-year-old state law that was written to mirror existing federal statutes of who can and cannot possess a weapon.

But the state Court of Appeals ruled last year that the federal statute specifically refers to weapons involved in interstate commerce. The judges said that means people could be convicted of violating the state gun law only if prosecutors could prove the weapon in question was "shipped or transported in interstate commerce."

The new version fixes that by saying all foreigners in this state are forbidden to have firearms. It does contain exceptions for permanent legal residents and some visitors, including hunters and target shooters.

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