

MATT SHEA  
CAUCUS CHAIR  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
4<sup>th</sup> LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE  
Solicitor General's Division

February 28, 2017

The Honorable Robert F. Ferguson  
Attorney General  
Washington State Office of the Attorney General  
P.O. Box 40100  
Olympia, WA 98504-0100

RE: Request for Informal Opinion

Dear Attorney General Ferguson:

Please accept this letter as request for a written opinion pursuant to RCW 43.10.030. It is my hope to gain clarity on whether a particular firearm fits within the definitions provided under RCW 9.41.010. Accordingly, I respectfully request an opinion on the following question:

Under RCW 9.41.010, does the 590 Shock-6 Shot firearm (reference: Mossberg #50659) fit within the current state law definition of "pistol?"

### Background

#### Relevant Law

RCW 9.41.010 defines the following terms:

- (18) "Pistol" means any firearm with a barrel less than sixteen inches in length, or is designed to be held and fired by the use of a single hand.
- (19) "Rifle" means a weapon designed or redesigned, made or remade, and intended to be fired from the shoulder and designed or redesigned, made or remade, and intended to use the energy of the explosive in a fixed metallic cartridge to fire only a single projectile through a rifled bore for each single pull of the trigger
- (22) "Short-barreled rifle" means a rifle having one or more barrels less than sixteen inches in length and any weapon made from a rifle by any means of modification if such modified weapon has an overall length of less than twenty-six inches.
- (23) "Short-barreled shotgun" means a shotgun having one or more barrels less than eighteen inches in length and any weapon made from a shotgun by any means of modification if such modified weapon has an overall length of less than twenty-six inches.

(24) "Shotgun" means a weapon with one or more barrels, designed or redesigned, made or remade, and intended to be fired from the shoulder and designed or redesigned, made or remade, and intended to use the energy of the explosive in a fixed shotgun shell to fire through a smooth bore either a number of ball shot or a single projectile for each single pull of the trigger.

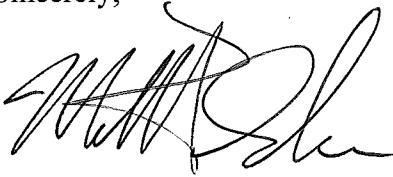
**Firearm in Question**

The recently manufactured 590 Shockwave- 6 shot firearm has a 14" barrel length and an overall length of 26.37". The 12-gauge firearm utilizes 2<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>" shotgun shells and is originally manufactured to fire at the hand, not the shoulder. The firearm has not been resigned or remade.

**Conclusion**

Thank you very much for your consideration of this important question. Please contact my office if you need additional information

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MATTHEW T. SHEA', written in a cursive style.

MATTHEW T. SHEA  
State Representative, 4<sup>th</sup> District  
House Republican Caucus Chair

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## 590 Shockwave - 6 Shot

#50659



New for 2017



### SPECIFICATIONS

Gauge	12
Capacity	6
Barrel Type	Heavy-Walled
Barrel Length	14"
Sight	Bead
Choke	Cylinder Bore
LOP Type	N/A
LOP	N/A
Barrel Finish	Matte Blued
Weight	5.25
Length	26.37
UPC	015813506595

MSRP: \$455.00

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