Gun Control Bill SFChronicle Put Aside

Washington

Prospects for congressional action this year on gun control legislation faded yesterday when the House Judiciary Committee laid aside a gun bill it had been working on:

The bill, which has been passed by the Senate, bans the sale of small, easily concealed handguns. It was scheduled for consideration by the Judiciary Committee but was placed behind sev-

eral other bills.

With Congress aiming for an October 15 adjournment, there is little likelihood that action can be completed on the controversial legislation in the remaining time.

There was no official explanation for the committee's action, but sources said neither Democratic nor Republican leaders want the bill coming up for a vote so close to the elections.

Associated Press