

RIFLE GROUP SEEKS TO SOFTEN GUN LAW

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WASHINGTON, April 1—The National Rifle Association, at its convention here, explored prospects today for modification of the new Federal gun control law.

But the 12,000 delegates who registered at the Sheraton-Park Hotel were advised against seeking repeal of the law, which prohibits interstate mail order sales of firearms and ammunition to individuals.

"While there may be a chance to clarify the present law and take out some of the worst features, there is, in my opinion, no chance for repeal," Representative Robert L. F. Sikes, Democrat of Florida, told the convention.

Mr. Sikes was one of the association's chief allies in last year's unsuccessful fight against stiff gun control legislation.

The association's board of directors, meeting in closed session, started laying strategy for a probable drive to win exemptions for ammunition. The board may announce this and other objectives after another closed session tomorrow, officials said.