

GunLawTrendwatch

A ROUNDUP AND ANALYSIS OF THE LATEST STATE FIREARMS LEGISLATION 3/20/17

POSITIVE TRENDS

Advocates Get the Job Done

Wednesday, March 8, was referred to as “Gun Day” at the Maryland Capitol due to six senate judiciary hearings held on firearms legislation. **A record number of gun violence prevention supporters attended the hearings.** One of the bills (SB 948) would require background checks on long gun purchases and another would keep guns off campuses of higher education (SB 946).

Lindsay Nichols, senior attorney at the Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence and Americans for Responsible Solutions, testified in support of SB 727, which would require individuals who are convicted of disqualifying crimes to transfer their firearms to a licensed dealer or law enforcement within two days. The bill would also require the defendant to file a proof of transfer with the court.

Advocates in Florida also came out in great force on March 7 against a number of bills that would have brought more guns into public spaces such as schools, campuses, and airports. **In a striking defeat for the gun lobby, Anitere Flores, the second-highest ranking Republican state senator, voiced her opposition to these bills, effectively killing them.**

Members of domestic violence prevention groups gave powerful testimony before the New Mexico senate on March 4, helping to defeat amendments that would have weakened SB 25, a bill to prohibit domestic abusers from purchasing or possessing guns and requiring them to relinquish their firearms. The bill is now headed to Governor Martinez.

ISSUES & BILLS

BACKGROUND CHECKS

AZ H 2150, AZ HCR 2009, CA S 299, FL H 809, FH H 1113, FL S 1196, FL S 1334, HI H 802, HI H 459, HI S 1037, IL H 2720, IL H 745, IA H 73, IA H 145, MA H 1283, MA S 1289, ME LR 337, ME LR 338, MD H 1448, MD S 948, MN H 1669, MN S 1261, MO H 363, NJ A 1212, NJ S 804, NM H 50, NM S 48, NY A 2406, NY A 3438, OR H 2237, SC H 3181, TN H 1319/S 1097, TN H 958/S 834, TN H 962/S 671, TX H 259, TX H 2034, UT H 237, VT S 6, WI A 65, WI A 74, WI S 34

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

DC B 116, FL H 1103, FL S 1506, KS H 2145, LA H 27, MA H 2325, MD H 294, MD S 224, MD S 224, MO H 1068, NJ A 4046, NM S 259, NY A 980, NY 1224, NY S 67, NY A 2027, NV S 124, ND H 1402, OH H 1, OR H 2237, RI H 5067, TN H 1112, TN S 229, TX H 289

PERMITLESS CARRY

AL S 24, CO S 116, IA HSB 133, IA SJR 2, IN H 1159, KY S 7, KY H 316, MI H 4003, MI H 4005, MN H 188, MN S 649, MN H 309, S 650, NC H 69, NC H 201, NH S 12, NJ A 626, NM S 56, NM SJR 5, ND H 1169, PA H 170, OK H 2321, OK S 381, OK S 383, SC H 3700, SC H 3930, SC S 449, SD H 1072, TN H 493, TX H 375

GUNS ON CAMPUS

AK H 1249, AR H 1249, FL H 803/S 908, FL S 140 FL S 622, FL H 849, GA H 280, IA HSB 133, IA S 256, IN H 1258, KS H 2220, ME LR 635, MO H 593, MO H 630, NC H 69, NM H 483, NM S 428, OK H 1600, OK S 380 SC H 3248, SC H 3262, TX H 560, TX H 2105, WY H 136, WY H 2559

NEGATIVE

Bills to Allow More Guns in Public Spaces Advance in Arkansas and Wyoming

An Arkansas bill (HB 1249) would allow individuals to obtain concealed carry permits with endorsements that allow them to carry **hidden, loaded guns on public college or university campuses**. It would also allow guns in publicly owned buildings and on the state capitol grounds. The bill makes it more cumbersome for certain private establishments, such as bars and houses of worship, to exclude firearms from their properties. The bill has passed both state legislative chambers and is in the house judiciary committee for concurrence with senate amendments.

The gun lobby has also undertaken efforts to increase the number of guns in public spaces in Wyoming. **HB 137 would allow individuals with concealed carry permits to bring guns into governmental or legislative meetings held in public buildings**. HB 194 would allow an employee of a school district who possess a concealed carry permit **to bring firearms onto any property of a K-12 school**.

Both bills are on the desk of Governor Mead.

BILLS TO WATCH

A North Carolina Bill Would Drastically Weaken Laws that Keep Guns out of the Hands of Dangerous Individuals

Legislators recently introduced a bill in North Carolina (HB 201) that would repeal the handgun permit-to-purchase—and thus the background check—requirement for handguns. **By eliminating this crucial requirement, North Carolina lawmakers would make it much easier for convicted felons, domestic abusers and the seriously mentally ill to buy handguns**.

The bill would also eliminate the state's concealed carry permitting law that requires individuals to apply for a permit and pass a background check before going armed in public. This irresponsible legislation removes virtually every safeguard currently in place to ensure that dangerous individuals are prevented from carrying loaded guns in public.

When the state of Missouri repealed its permit-to-purchase handgun licensing law, Johns Hopkins researchers determined that the repeal led to a 14% increase in Missouri's murder rate and a 25% increase in firearm homicide rates.

In 2015, North Carolina's gun death rate was already in the top half of all 50 states.

ABOUT THE LAW CENTER TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE & AMERICANS FOR RESPONSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Led by former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords and Navy combat veteran and retired NASA astronaut Captain Mark Kelly, Americans for Responsible Solutions and the Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence are committed to advancing commonsense change that makes communities safer from gun violence. Operating out of offices in Washington DC, San Francisco, and New York, our staff partners with lawmakers and advocates to craft and enact the smart gun laws that save lives. We provide expertise in firearms litigation, lead grassroots coalitions, and educate the public on the proven solutions to America's gun violence epidemic.

smartgunlaws.org