

GUN LAW TRENDWATCH

A ROUNDUP AND ANALYSIS OF THE LATEST STATE FIREARM LEGISLATION 5.31.2018

Nearly half the states are now out of session, but the fight for gun safety in 2018 is far from over.

Twenty-three state legislatures have concluded their 2018 sessions, with several passing important gun safety measures such as extreme risk protection order (ERPO) laws, bans on bump stocks, and laws to disarm domestic abusers.

Several states still in session, however, are poised to make meaningful contributions to this year's victories. After passing a ban on the use and possession of bump stocks (SB 3477) earlier this year, **New Jersey** is moving several additional gun violence prevention bills through its legislature.

Other states that are likely to take action during the remainder of 2018 include **Massachusetts**—the house passed an ERPO bill (HB 4517) on May 23—and **Connecticut**, whose legislature sent a bump stock ban to the governor on May 17 (HB 5542). In **Rhode Island**, an ERPO bill (SB 2492) passed a house committee and a bump stock ban (HB 7075) passed a senate committee on May 29. And, despite a veto of gun dealer licensing by the Republican governor of **Illinois**, an amended version of the bill (SB 337) has passed both chambers and is now in the senate for concurrence. On May 30, the Illinois senate passed an ERPO bill (HB 2354).

In total, since the February 14 massacre at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida, 38 new gun safety bills in 22 states have been enacted into law. Advocates and legislators expect the second half of 2018 to continue this lifesaving momentum.

NEW JERSEY STILL GOING STRONG

A new governor has brought renewed energy to gun safety reform in New Jersey, and a package of bills is moving, including legislation to require all gun sales to go through a licensed dealer (AB 2757), to prohibit armor-piercing bullets (AB 2759), to strengthen concealed carry permitting (AB 2758), and to reduce magazine capacity (AB 2761).

BIPARTISAN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BILLS

2018 has been a strong year for legislation to keep guns away from abusers, including in gun-friendly states such as **Kansas** (HB 2145), **Louisiana** (HB 776, HB 896, and SB 231), **Ohio** (HB 1), **Utah** (SB 27), and **Vermont** (HB 422). **Maryland** (HB 1646), **New York** (SB 8121), **Oregon** (HB 4145), and **Washington** (SB 6298) also enacted bills to prevent domestic gun violence.

GUN BILLS IN MOTION

BACKGROUND CHECKS

New Jersey AB 2757 and SB 2374 (passed senate committee on May 21) and **New York** SB 5808 (passed committee on May 15). At least eight states currently have legislation pending to strengthen or enact background checks.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

California AB 3129 (passed assembly committee on May 25) and **Louisiana** HB 776 and HB 896 (enacted on May 17) and SB 231 (enacted on May 20). At least eight states still have bills pending that would close domestic violence loopholes.

EXTREME RISK PROTECTION ORDER

Rhode Island HB 7688 and SB 2492 (both passed committees on May 29 and are scheduled to be heard on May 31); **California** AB 2888 (passed assembly on May 21) and SB 1200 (passed senate on May 29); **Illinois** HB 2354 (passed senate on May 30); **Massachusetts** HB 3610 (passed committee on May 21) and HB 4517 (passed house on May 23); and

New York SB 7133 (passed committee on May 22). Extreme risk protection order bills are currently pending in at least 12 states.

GUNS IN SCHOOLS

Louisiana HB 602 (sent to governor on May 23) would allow CCW permit holders to carry on K-12 school grounds. Bills to allow guns in school or on campus are pending in at least eight states.

PERMITLESS CARRY

No reckless permitless concealed carry bills are currently moving. Only one bill, **Virginia** SB 48, is pending, having been carried over to the 2019 legislative session.

URBAN GUN VIOLENCE

Massachusetts HB 4401 (passed senate and sent to house for concurrence). Bills to fund urban gun violence reduction programs are currently pending in five states.

DEFENSIVE VICTORY HIGHLIGHTS

So far in 2018, the gun violence prevention movement has defeated bills to weaken concealed carry permitting laws in 18 states; to allow guns onto local and state property in 14 states; to arm teachers and other civilians in K-12 schools in 20 states; and to allow concealed carry without a permit in 11 states. Other defeated gun lobby-backed legislation includes bills that would force businesses to allow guns in parking lots in four states; to bring guns onto the campuses of colleges and universities in 14 states; to enact or expand "stand your ground" laws in eight states; to weaken waiting period laws in three states; and to weaken or eliminate background check laws in four states.

For more information on firearm bills introduced in this legislative session, or any other questions about *Gun Law Trendwatch*, contact its author, Allison Anderman, at aanderman@giffords.org.

TEXAS GOVERNOR MISSES THE MARK

Even before the shooting at a Santa Fe High School that killed 10 people, a University of Texas/Texas Tribune poll taken in October 2017 found that a majority of Texans favor stronger gun laws. Governor Greg Abbott, however, ignored calls for gun safety laws following the latest mass shooting in his state. Instead of making it harder for dangerous people to acquire guns, Abbott unveiled a plan on May 30 to arm more school personnel and reduce the number of school entrances.

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For nearly 25 years, the legal experts at Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence have been fighting for a safer America by researching, drafting, and defending the laws, policies, and programs proven to save lives from gun violence.