

GUN LAW TRENDWATCH

A ROUNDUP AND ANALYSIS OF THE LATEST STATE FIREARM LEGISLATION 2.25.2020

Vermont was the first state to pass sweeping gun safety reforms after the Parkland shooting. It's poised to lead again in 2020.

After the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School two years ago that claimed 17 lives, **Vermont** took unprecedented action on gun safety, passing sweeping reforms that enacted universal background checks and an extreme risk protection order law and raised the minimum age to purchase guns in the state. These significant reforms made residents safer from gun violence and raised the state's grade in Giffords Law Center's *Annual Gun Law Scorecard* from an F to a C-. Yet Vermont still has work to do—according to the most recent ATF data, it supplies crime guns to other states at the 15th-highest rate.

In 2020, Vermont legislators are once again positioned to lead. HB 610 would prohibit individuals subject to domestic violence protective orders from accessing firearms and would establish a process to swiftly disarm abusers. 75% of Vermont's intimate partner homicides involve a gun. States that have laws prohibiting protective order respondents from accessing firearms have 13% fewer firearm intimate partner homicides.

HB 610 would also close the Charleston Loophole by prohibiting a dealer from transferring a firearm to a person before a background check has cleared and expand the state's 2018 extreme risk protection order by allowing family or household members to petition for an order. Nearly 88% of gun deaths in Vermont are suicides. HB 610 would help address this crisis by improving and expanding laws that make it more difficult for individuals at risk of harming themselves or others to access guns.

Vermont, a state that has a higher gun death rate than the national average, has the opportunity to show its residents and the country that states can and must do more to protect Americans.

GUN SAFETY EXECUTIVE ACTION IN NEW YORK

On January 21, **New York** Governor Andrew Cuomo introduced his executive budget and, along with it, a package of gun safety bills. These bills would, among other things, further regulate the manufacture and dissemination of untraceable and undetectable guns known as "ghost guns," make it more difficult for domestic abusers to access guns, improve efforts to trace crime guns, and strengthen efforts to prevent prohibited individuals from acquiring firearms.

ALABAMA LEGISLATORS TRY TO BLOCK LIFESAVING ERPO LAW

Alabama has the second-highest gun death rate in the nation. Reckless legislators introduced HB 123, which would declare extreme risk protection order (ERPO) laws void, make it a felony for an officer to enforce an order, and prohibit the acceptance of any federal grant funding for ERPOs. **Kansas**, **Oklahoma**, and **Washington** have similar dangerous bills pending this session.

GUN BILLS IN MOTION

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION BILL

BACKGROUND CHECKS

Washington HB 2467 and HB 2555 passed the house and have hearings February 27. **New Hampshire** HB 1379 passed the house. **Maryland** HB 1104 has a hearing March 4. **Virginia** SB 70 passed a house committee. Legislation to strengthen or enact background checks is pending in 25 states.

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION BILL

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Virginia HB 1288 passed the house and had a hearing February 24. SB 479 passed a house committee. **Washington** HB 2473 passed the house and has a hearing February 27. HB 2622 passed the house and has a hearing February 27. **Oregon** SB 1546 has a hearing February 25. **Illinois** HB 4262 has a hearing February 26. **Colorado** HB 1278 has a hearing February 25. At least 26 states have bills pending that would close domestic violence loopholes that allow abusers to access guns.

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION BILL

EXTREME RISK PROTECTION ORDER

New Mexico SB 5 was signed into law by the governor. **Washington** HB 2622 passed the house and has a hearing February 27. **Virginia** SB 240 passed a house committee. Extreme risk protection order bills are pending in at least 25 states.

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION BILL

COMMUNITY GUN VIOLENCE

Virginia HB 422 and HB 1499 each passed a senate committee. **Washington** SB 6288 passed the senate and has hearings February 26 and 28. HB 2325 had a hearing February 24 and has another hearing February 26. SB 6168 had a hearing February 24 and has another hearing February 25. **Maryland** HB 822 has a hearing February 25. **Connecticut** HB 5040 has a hearing February 27. Currently, 17 states have bills pending that would allocate or protect funding for such programs.

GUN LOBBY BILL

GUNS IN SCHOOLS

Kentucky SB 8 was enacted February 21. **Oklahoma** HB 2336 passed both chambers. **South Dakota** HB 1152 passed the house. **Iowa** SB 116 passed a committee. **Missouri** HB 1961 has a hearing February 25. Dangerous bills to allow guns in school or on campus are pending in at least 25 states.

GUN LOBBY BILL

PERMITLESS CARRY

Idaho HB 516 had a hearing February 24. Permitless carry laws allow individuals to carry concealed weapons without a background check and can increase the likelihood of deadly confrontations in public. There are reckless permitless carry bills pending in at least 13 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.



Lawmaker? Advocate?

Reach out to Giffords Law Center today to find out how you can use our model laws to help craft lifesaving gun legislation in your home state.

GUN LOBBY EXTREMISM OF THE WEEK: SANCTUARIES FOR GUNS—AND GUN VIOLENCE

Legislators in twelve states—including Alabama, Missouri, Mississippi, and West Virginia, which are among the states with the highest gun death rates—introduced bills that would declare their states gun sanctuaries immune from federal guns laws such as those that impose background checks on purchasers.

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For over 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.