

GUN LAW TRENDWATCH

A ROUNDUP AND ANALYSIS OF THE LATEST STATE FIREARM LEGISLATION 2.12.2020

Voting matters. A new legislature in Virginia—elected by residents concerned about gun violence—passes sweeping gun safety package.

Thanks to courageous candidates, activists, and survivors, gun safety was front and center in a historic election in Virginia on November 5, 2019. Virginians resoundingly rejected representatives who consistently blocked gun safety reform and changed control of the state legislature for the first time in over 20 years. The slate of gun violence prevention champions elected by voters included 23 candidates endorsed by Giffords.

Governor Northam, who had vowed to make gun safety his top priority, introduced a package of bills at the start of 2020. Only a month into the legislative session, nearly all have passed the House of Delegates. This package includes bills to require universal background checks (HB 2); create an extreme risk protection order, known as a substantial risk order (HB 674); limit handgun purchases to one a month (HB 812); allow municipalities to pass local gun safety laws (HB 421); require gun owners to report lost and stolen firearms (HB 9); disarm domestic abusers (HB 1004); and strengthen efforts to keep guns out of the hands of minors (HB 1063). Gun safety bills are also moving through the state senate. A bill to disarm domestic abusers subject to protective orders passed the senate (SB 479) and a bill to require lost and stolen reporting passed a senate committee on February 5 (SB 67).

Americans concerned about gun violence need only look to Virginia to recognize that they have the power to make gun safety a reality in their state and in the nation. Shortly after winning his election to the House of Delegates, Army veteran Dan Helmer said, “I can imagine a world a decade from now where my wife isn’t huddling in the corner of the classroom with our kids. And we have a chance to make that happen.”

NEW MEXICO ERPO MOVING SWIFTLY

New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham and other gun safety legislators hope their state will become the first to pass extreme risk protection order (ERPO) legislation in 2020 by enacting SB 5, which has passed the senate. Despite the efforts of gun activists to block this lifesaving legislation, New Mexicans made their voices heard in recent elections by voting in a gun safety legislature.

SEVERAL STATES ZERO IN ON GHOST GUNS IN 2020

Ghost guns—untraceable and often undetectable firearms—pose a grave threat to public safety and are unregulated in most states. These guns have been used by a sixteen-year-old boy to kill fellow students and a person convicted of a felony to threaten a law enforcement officer, among other things. Three states—**Rhode Island** (SB 2004, HB 7102), **Delaware** (HB 277), and **Hawaii** (HB 1733, SB 2151, and SB 2943)—have moved bills to regulate ghost guns this session. Bills are pending in ten additional states and DC.

GUN BILLS IN MOTION

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION BILL

BACKGROUND CHECKS

Maryland HB 4 and **Virginia** HB 2 and SB 70 passed one chamber. **New Hampshire** HB 1379 and **Washington** HB 2555 and HB 2467 passed a committee. Legislation to strengthen or enact background checks is pending in 25 states.

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION BILL

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Virginia HB 1004 and SB 479 each passed a chamber and HB 1288 passed a committee. **Washington** HB 2473 and HB 2622 each passed a committee. **Oregon** SB 1546 had a hearing on February 11. At least 24 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 Hampshire HB 687, **New Mexico** SB 5, and **Virginia** HB 674 and SB 240 all passed a chamber. **Nebraska** LB 58 passed a committee. **Washington** HB 6307 and HB 2622 each passed a committee. Extreme risk protection order bills are pending in at least 26 states.

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION BILL

COMMUNITY GUN VIOLENCE

New Jersey SB 3309 and AB 4803 were enacted on January 20 and January 21, respectively. **Virginia** HB 422 and SB 248 each passed a chamber and HB 1617 and HB 1499 each passed a committee. **Florida** HB 201 and SB 652, **Massachusetts** HB 4354, **New Mexico** HB 301, and **Washington** SB 6288 all passed a committee. **Rhode Island** HB 7171 has several hearings this week. Currently, 14 states have bills pending that would allocate or protect funding for such programs.

GUN LOBBY BILL

GUNS IN SCHOOLS

Kentucky SB 8 passed both chambers. **Indiana** SB 69 and SB 263 and **West Virginia** SB 482 passed the senate. **South Carolina** SB 1018 has a hearing February 12. **South Dakota** HB 1152 passed a committee. **Maryland** SB 459 has a hearing March 10. Dangerous bills to allow guns in school or on campus are pending in at least 25 states.

GUN LOBBY BILL

PERMITLESS CARRY

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 12 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: MISSOURI

LEGISLATORS PUSH “MORE GUNS EVERYWHERE” AGENDA

Missouri legislators continue their dangerous efforts to bring more guns into public life with bills that would force K–12 schools to put guns on campuses (HB 1961), make it harder for private businesses to prohibit guns on their property (HB 1457), and make it easier for convicted felons to carry guns (HB 1669).

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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.