

# GUN LAW TRENDWATCH

A ROUNDUP AND ANALYSIS OF THE LATEST STATE FIREARM LEGISLATION 3.10.2020

## Recently elected gun safety champions in New Mexico and Virginia are delivering on their campaign promises to pass effective gun laws.

In 2019, **New Mexico** and **Virginia** voters demanded that legislators prioritize gun safety. In 2020, residents are getting what they voted for.

In February, New Mexico Governor Michelle Grisham signed SB 5, which creates an extreme risk protection order law that allows law enforcement to petition a court for an order temporarily disarming a person at elevated risk of harming themselves or others. In doing so, New Mexico became the 18th state to enact this lifesaving policy, which has been used to prevent mass shootings and firearm suicides in states around the country.

Virginia representatives have sent a number of gun safety bills to the governor, including SB 240/HB 674, an extreme risk protection order law. The other bills include HB 2, which would strengthen the state's background checks laws; HB 1083, which would strengthen the state's child access prevention law; HB 1004, which would expand gun prohibitions for people subject to protective orders and create a process to disarm domestic abusers; HB 1080, which would prevent schools from arming teachers or other individuals unless authorized by state law; HB 264, which would require in-person firearms training for concealed carry applicants; SB 35 and HB 421, which would grant local governments greater ability to legislate for gun safety and repeal aspects of gun industry immunity; HB 9, which would require gun owners to report lost and stolen firearms; HB 812, which would limit handgun sales to one per month; and SB 14, which would ban bump stocks, the type of trigger activator used in the 2017 Las Vegas massacre.

In 2020, voters in several other states will have the opportunity to elect courageous legislators who prioritize their lives over gun industry profits.

## MORE GUNS IN KENTUCKY SCHOOLS.

Rejecting the clear evidence that guns in schools do more harm than good, **Kentucky** has enacted a law (SB 8) that forces K-12 schools to have armed school resource officers on their campuses. To keep students safe, Kentucky should instead enact laws that keep guns out of the hands of minors, raise the minimum age to purchase firearms, and ensure all gun purchases are subject to background checks.

## CONTINUED PROGRESS FOR VIOLENCE REDUCTION EFFORTS

2020 continues ongoing progress in directing funding to community violence intervention programs. **Virginia** Governor Ralph Northam's budget bill, HB 30, would allocate approximately \$2.6 million to evidence-based programs. If the budget passes as proposed, it will represent the greatest investment the state has made in these programs to date. **Washington** SB 6168, which has passed both chambers, will also direct over \$1.8 million towards lifesaving violence reduction programs.

# GUN BILLS IN MOTION

## GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION BILL

### BACKGROUND CHECKS

**Illinois** SB 1966 and **Virginia** HB 2 and SB 70 passed both chambers and have been sent to concurrence. **Washington** HB 2467 and HB 2555 each passed both chambers. **Maryland** HB 4 passed the house and a senate committee and SB 208 passed a committee. **Minnesota** HB 8 passed the house. **Utah** HB 109 and **Massachusetts** HB 2092 and SB 1387 all passed a committee. **Tennessee** HB 1427 has a hearing March 10. **Rhode Island** HB 7928 has a hearing March 11. Legislation to strengthen or enact background checks is pending in 26 states.

## GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION BILL

### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

**Virginia** HB 1004 and SB 479 have been sent to the governor. **Washington** HB 2473 was sent to the governor and HB 2622 passed both chambers and was sent to concurrence. **Iowa** SB 448 passed the senate and a house committee. **Oregon** SB 1546 passed two committees. **Illinois** HB 4262 passed

a committee. At least 25 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 enacted February 25. **Virginia** HB 674 and SB 240 were sent to the governor. **Washington** HB 2622 passed both chambers and was sent to concurrence. **Minnesota** HB 9 passed the house. **Connecticut** HB 5448 has a hearing March 13. Extreme risk protection order bills are pending in at least 28 states.

## GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION BILL

### COMMUNITY GUN VIOLENCE

**Virginia** HB 422 and SB 248 were sent to the governor and HB 1499 was sent to concurrence. **Washington** SB 6168 and SB 6288 were sent to concurrence and HB 2325 passed two committees. Currently, 17 states have bills pending that would allocate or protect funding for such programs.

## GUN LOBBY BILL

### GUNS IN SCHOOLS

**Oklahoma** HB 2336 was sent to the governor. **Iowa** SB 2184 passed the senate and has a hearing March 10. **Georgia** SB 357 and **Missouri** HB 1961 each passed a committee. 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 passed the house. **Alabama** SB 1 passed a committee. 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](mailto: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: PRIVATE PROPERTY OWNERS UNDER ATTACK FROM GUN LOBBY

In 2020, the gun lobby continues its assault on the freedom of private business owners to control their own property. Bills in Alaska, Minnesota, Michigan, Missouri, Rhode Island, Washington, and West Virginia would make property owners liable under certain conditions if the owners prohibit guns.

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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.