

Committee on Public Safety and Security
Public Hearings on March 14, 2013

I wish I was in the position where I could spend a significant amount of time assisting with research to identify what measures could be taken to curb violent crime without infringing upon our rights. What conflicts with this is my full time employ, so all I can offer is my objection to current bills that only encumber lawful citizens, with some examples of how.

I offer testimony to oppose S.B 505, S.B. 506, S.B. 710, S.B. 897, S.B. 1071, S.B. 1076, H.B. 6162, H.B. 6251, H.B. 6595, and H.B. 6598. At the bottom I offer just a quick summary of only a few of the problems I have found with these bills.

The most of these bills pose serious problems. How does one comply with requirements to register firearms they are in possession of when a firearm is old enough to legally have been manufactured without a serial number.

How does one provide the contact information for the person you've acquired a firearm from when that person has passed away years prior? How about firearms that have been handed down through generations for close to 90 years?

Operationally the Remington 740 my grandfather used for deer hunting and an AR-15 are identical, what is there to ensure that that rifle isn't reclassified in the future, preventing it from being passed to future generations?

I object to a "Gun Offender Registry" on the basic principal that it should be a Violent Offender Registry...to contain the names of all that have been convicted of ANY violent crimes. To put together such a database and exclude those that are sure to become progressively more violent is a shame. The only problem would be those that were charged for something such as a simple fist-fight as a matter of being in the wrong place at the wrong time, so there needs to a mechanism to remove single offense individuals after a certain time and/or appeal the entry one's name into the database.

H.B. 6595 AN ACT PROHIBITING THE DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS NEAR PRIVATE RESIDENCES

- There are no provisions that account for, and exempt, an individual who has had to discharge a firearm in defense of themselves or others.
- There is no provision to account for firearms ranges or gun clubs.
- This is redundant to legislation that already exists that concerns bullets crossing property lines.

H.B. 6251 An act requiring fingerprinting and criminal background checks prior to the sale, delivery or transfer of all long guns.

- This is an affront to acquire legal property in the state. These new requirements incur huge bureaucratic overhead to the purchase process.

With most retailers and individuals lack the capability to perform fingerprinting, this will require a significant staffing increase at local police departments, or other offices, in order to undertake commerce.

H.B. 6162 AN ACT CONCERNING INELIGIBILITY FOR A PERMIT TO CARRY A PISTOL OR REVOLVER OR AN ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATE BASED ON A PRIOR HOSPITALIZATION.

- Denial to exercise a right and loss of property based co-residence, without due process for those who are not subject to hospitalization. In addition, there is no provision for anything other than seizure and surrender of rightfully owned property.

S.B. 1071 An act concerning additional funding for the criminal injuries compensation fund.

- This bill will certainly drive firearms manufacturers and retailers out of the state, incurring a loss of jobs, revenue, and spending within the state.

S.B. 505 An act concerning the minimum age to purchase a rifle or other long gun.

- This act will raise the age of those that can legally receive a rifle or shotgun. This further impacts those who would receive any such firearms as part of an estate.

S.B. 1076 An act concerning the reduction of gun violence

This bill is an egregious overreach and has many unconstitutional aspects.

Firearms registration:

- This poses a few issues. First, this legislation requires a background check for each firearm registered, as well as issuing authority review. This is a redundant process first.
- The requirements for registration are too concrete and pose problems. First, how do I provide the telephone number and address for individuals who are long dead and buried? There are many firearms in this state that are inherited and there is no means to identify the transaction history. Who is willing to depart with the deer rifle of their long lost grandfather?
- Rejection of one application for registration invokes surrender and seizure of all firearms. With this there is a lack of proper controls to ensure this rejection isn't based upon a clerical error, bureaucratic inefficiency, or the political views of an appointed official who must provide approval.
- The "registration" period is short, and will keep owners going through continual bureaucratic gymnastics.
- Fees attached to the "registration" process are not designated to be absolutely minimal. First, this can amount to a poll tax, secondly the exercise of a right should not be viewed as a revenue stream for the state.
- The annual renewal process is less efficient at identifying a person who's status has changed than that which is currently in place. This is

subterfuge, the real effect of this is merely a deterrent for one to own firearms.

Bulk purchase provision:

- This prevents an individual from acquiring the contents of an estate or purchasing complete collections, having broad implications for collectors and descendants.

Rifle Permit Issuance:

- The process for rifle permit issuance is essentially the same as pistol permit issuance. The suitability tests used for the pistol permit process are applicable to those seeking to carry a handgun in public. Those seeking a rifle permit aren't looking to carry a handgun, which implies they might face a confrontation, yet likely target shooting, collecting, or hunting. Also with this provision there is no clear list of criteria for the local CLEO, no requirement for the CLEO to comply with issuance, and no means of appeal other than superior court.

Regards,
Jason Tetlow
Portland, 06480