

I am here today to speak in opposition of HB 6595 - AN ACT PROHIBITING THE DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS NEAR PRIVATE RESIDENCES.

While I believe I understand the intent of the bill, the language of it is concerning and unfortunate to firearm owners for many reasons.

Example: This bill would essentially make anyone who lived in an apartment complex, condo, multifamily home, or rented a home or apartment in another's home guilty of a class C misdemeanor if he or she had to discharge a firearm in self-defense while in that residence.

Another example: If a person, who is legally authorized in the state to carry a pistol or revolver is attacked on the street of a city or suburb by an armed mugger or criminal, would it be permissible for him to return fire in order to defend himself? According to the letter of the bill here he or she would be guilty of a class C misdemeanor as he or she would almost always be within five hundred feet of another residence.

Yet another: Many gun ranges in the state (including indoor ranges) would fall within that 500 ft of a residence. Even though it is perfectly safe to shoot at these ranges, they would have to be shut down if this bill became law. The potential forced closure of these ranges is arguably unconstitutional and inarguably foolish to restrict access to firearms safety and marksmanship practice as well as general recreational use at these ranges. Arms bearing citizens need to be able to practice and be proficient in their arms handling skills for their safety as well as others and in order to properly be able to defend themselves and the state as our state constitution clearly protects.

I am concerned that the language in this bill was left purposely broad in hopes of getting many of these ranges shut down, along with giving lawful gun owners pause in using a firearm for self-defense in a life-threatening situation.

Thank You for Your Time.

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