

2.17.15

GUN LAW TRENDWATCH

A roundup and analysis of the latest state firearms legislation.

POSITIVE TRENDS

New bills are still being introduced in the states in a wide variety of areas related to gun violence. **Thirteen states have now introduced bills to close the loophole that allows firearms to be sold by unlicensed sellers without a background check.** In one state—Virginia—background check bills have already been defeated. In two other states—New Hampshire and Vermont—public hearings have been scheduled or have already occurred. We expect to see still more bills introduced this year on this critical issue.

The domestic violence law trend noted in our last report has continued to grow. **There are now 13 states that have introduced bills that would reduce access to firearms by domestic abusers.** These bills can be roughly broken into two categories: 1) bills that would remove guns from the scene of an incident or require surrender of firearms by an abuser and 2) bills that would impose prohibitions on possession as well as future firearms purchases due to a domestic violence conviction or order of protection. Bills in Hawaii and Illinois have been set for hearings.

New bills have also been introduced in the gun violence protection order, safe storage, and child access prevention categories.

ISSUES AND BILLS

CHILD ACCESS PREVENTION

MO S23, MO S 60, NJ S 516, A 1230, NY S 2491, SC H 3043, SC H 3053, VA S 1178*, WA H 1747, WA S 5789

CONCEALED CARRY (NO PERMIT)

CO S 32, ID H 89, IN H 1144, KSS 45, MS H 1272, MS S 2618, MT D 497, MTH 298, NH H 582, NH S 116, OK H 1264, OK H 1325, OK S 363, PA H 230, SC S 105, SD H 1108, SD H 1116, TX H 195, TX S 342, UT H 260, WV H 2145, WVS 35, WVS 347

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

AZ S 1269, CT S 56, CT H 5069, CT S 650, HI H 402, HI H 625, HI H 1199, HI S 462, IL H 265, IN H 1295, MO H 492, MO H 418, MO H 646, NY A 249, NY A 373, NY S 1413, NY S 1461, NY S 1493, OK H 1329, OR S 525, RI H 5119, SC H 3034, SC S 3, VA H 2045,* VA H 2085*, VA S 909*, VA S 912*, VA S 943, WA S 5381

GUN VIOLENCE RESTRAINING ORDER

MO H 646, NJ A 3370, NY A 4277, VA S 1429*, WA S 5727, WA H 1857

PRIVATE SALE BACKGROUND CHECKS

AZ H 2118, AZ HCR 2009, AZ S 1269, AZ H 2601, IA H 77, KS S 25, MO H 347, MT D 608, NH H 650, NJ A 1800, NM H 44, NY S 2445, NV IP 2, SC H 3033, TX S 258, TX S 259, VA H 535*, VA H 812*, VA H 823*, H 1604, VA H 1923, VA S 39, VA S 287*, VA S 520*, VA S 694*, VA S 993*, VA S 1178*, VA S 768*, VT S 31

SAFE STORAGE

CT H 6301, CT H 6302, HI H 1381, HI S 783, NJ A 673, NY A 53, NY A 214, NY S 2291, VT H 91

**Bills defeated in committee.*

NEGATIVE TRENDS

Bills that would allow guns in K–12 schools and on campuses are being introduced widely across the country, with 14 states introducing bills to allow guns in K–12 schools. In two states—North Dakota and Wyoming—the bills have already passed their chamber of origin and are heading to the next chamber. Guns on campus bills have been introduced in 13 states and have passed their houses of origin in Montana and Wyoming.

Although only four states currently allow guns to be carried concealed in public without a permit, there are 14 states considering this measure in 2015. In Mississippi and South Dakota, these bills have already passed their houses of origin. These dangerous measures would allow loaded guns to be carried in public places with no oversight, creating serious issues for law enforcement and danger to the public.

BILLS TO WATCH

Texas is considering a bill to allow handguns to be carried openly in public, inviting a flurry of media attention due to the threatening behavior of some activists supporting the bill. Hawaii and Maryland are considering bills that would weaken concealed carry permitting schemes. In both states, bills have been introduced that would make it easier to obtain a concealed carry permit. In addition, Arkansas and Iowa have introduced stand your ground bills that remove the duty to retreat prior to the use of deadly force.

ABOUT THE LAW CENTER TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE

Founded in the wake of the July 1, 1993, assault weapon massacre at 101 California Street in San Francisco that left eight dead and six wounded, the Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence is now the premier resource for legal expertise and information regarding state and federal firearms laws. We track and analyze gun laws in all 50 states, file amicus briefs in Second Amendment cases across the country, and work with lawmakers and advocates to craft and promote legislation that will reduce gun violence and save lives. We regularly partner with law firms and nonprofit organizations dedicated to combating the epidemic of gun violence in our country, and we invite you to learn more about our work by visiting our website or connecting with us on social media.