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# GUN LAW TRENDWATCH

*A roundup and analysis of the latest state firearms legislation.*

## POSITIVE TRENDS

Following on the heels of last November's victory in Washington State, activists in Nevada are working to require private sale background checks via a ballot initiative. The effort recently passed an important hurdle—under Nevada law, if legislators fail to act on a ballot initiative within 40 days of a measure's introduction, the measure is automatically put before voters the following year. That 40-day period ended on March 14, paving the way for private sale background checks to be on the ballot in Nevada in 2016.

Since the last issue of *Trendwatch*, domestic violence bills have passed the first chamber in two states—South Carolina and Washington. Also, a new gun violence protective order bill has been introduced in Texas, bringing the total number of states that have considered or are considering this measure in 2015 to ten.

## NEGATIVE TRENDS

**Bills have recently been introduced in Iowa that would significantly weaken the state's gun laws and make it easier for prohibited people, such as convicted felons and domestic abusers, to acquire firearms.** These bills, SB 425 and HB 527, would repeal Iowa's handgun permit-to-purchase requirement. The background check required for permit-to-purchase is the only background check a handgun purchaser is currently required to undergo if he or she buys from an unlicensed seller in Iowa.

## ISSUES AND BILLS

### CHILD ACCESS PREVENTION

KS S 222, MO S 23, MO S 60, NJ S 516, A 1230, NM H 544, NY S 2491, NY A 5278, OH H 75, PA H 415, SC H 3043, SC H 3053, VA S 1178\*, WA H 1747, WA S 5789

### CONCEALED CARRY (NO PERMIT)

CO S 32, GA H 543, ID H 89, IN H 1144, KS S 45, ME S 245, MN S 684, MS H 1272, MS S 2618, MT D 497, MT H 298, MT H 533, NH H 582, NH S 116, OK H 1264, OK H 1325, OK S 363, PA H 230, SC S 105, SC H 3716, SD H 1108, SD H 1116, TN H 535, TN H 684, TN S 780, TN S 784, TX H 195, TX S 342, UT H 260, UT S 256, WV H 2145, WV S 35, WV S 347, WV H 2178

### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

AL H 47, AZ S 1269, CT S 56, CT H 5069, CT S 650, H 6848, HI H 402, HI H 625, HI H 1199, HI S 462, IL H 265, IL H 3358, IN H 1295, KS H 2206, KY H 8, ME H 413, MD H 857, MD S 530, MO H 492, MO H 418, MO H 646, NM S 495, NV S 175, NY A 249, NY A 373, NY A 5257, NY S 1413, NY S 1461, NY S 1493, OK H 1329, OR S 525, RI H 5119, RI H 5655, RI S 503, RI S 511, RI S 520, 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

IL S 1864, IL H 3160, KS H 2206, KS H 2375, MO H 646, MN H 1361, MN S 1289, NJ A 3370, NY A 4277, TX S 1006, 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, IL H 1405, IL S 1490, 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, TX 2190, 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 7853, MD H 160, NJ A 673, NM H 546, NY A 53, NY A 214, NY S 2291, NY A 5278, NY S 2291, NY S 2491, NY S 3719, PA H 503, VT H 91

*\*Bills defeated in committee.*

Under these dangerous new bills, that permit would be optional. The bills would also allow children of any age to use handguns with adult supervision and would repeal the requirement that prohibits a handgun permit holder from purchasing a handgun for three days after the permit is issued. HB 527 has passed the House, and if this bill or SB 425 are enacted, the safety of Iowans could be jeopardized.

**Iowa received a C- on the Law Center's annual Gun Law State Scorecard. Passing these bills would significantly lower this score and is likely to put lives at risk. [To see comprehensive gun law details, grades, and rankings for Iowa and other states, visit gunlawscorecard.org.](https://www.gunlawscorecard.org)**

This year, 20 states have introduced bills that would allow individuals to carry concealed weapons in public without a permit. In two of these states—Montana and West Virginia—the bills have passed both chambers and are headed to the governors' desks. Given that only three states have enacted these measures in the last three decades, any new law in this area is extremely significant.

## BILLS TO WATCH

A Georgia bill—HB 492—that would prohibit a K–12 school district from regulating whether and how firearms may be carried on the premises is swiftly moving through the state legislature. The bill was introduced at the end of February, has already passed the House, and is headed to the Senate.

[To see the status of other gun bills moving in state legislatures, as well as maps on the trending issues in state gun bills, check out smartgunlaws.org/trendwatch.](https://www.smartgunlaws.org/trendwatch)

## 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.