POSITIVE TRENDS

For years California has led the country in the enactment of smart gun laws. Each year, the Law Center works closely with fellow members of the California Firearms Strategy Group to draft and support these important measures. A top priority this year is AB 2459, a measure written by the Law Center to strengthen California’s gun dealer requirements. The bill would authorize fines against gun dealers, prohibit gun dealers from operating out of a residence, and require security cameras, videotaping of all gun and ammunition sales, and liability insurance.

Other California bills of note include AB 1674, which would extend the one-handgun-per-month rule to all firearms, and AB 1664, which would close the “bullet button loophole” by classifying ammunition magazines that may easily be removed with the use of a tool, including bullets, as detachable magazines.

The Oregon bill that would address the fatal loophole that allows firearms transfers to proceed by default even when a background check is not complete, passed the house and is now heading to the senate. Governor Kate Brown has publicly expressed support for the measure.

This month, the Washington Alliance for Gun Responsibility launched a campaign to enact an Extreme Risk Protective Order measure via voter initiative. The measure is modeled after California’s gun violence restraining order law enacted in 2014.
NEGATIVE TRENDS

In the last issue of Trendwatch, we reported on the West Virginia bill, HB 4145, which would allow individuals over 21 to carry a concealed, loaded gun in public without a permit. The bill would also allow those as young as 18 to carry a concealed gun with a permit. This bill has now passed both chambers and has been sent to Governor Tomblin, who vetoed a similar measure last year. Legislators have promised an override attempt if the bill is vetoed, despite polling by Everytown for Gun Safety showing that West Virginians overwhelmingly support requiring a permit to carry a concealed gun in public.

Last week, Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe signed two bills into law, HB 1163 and SB 610, which require Virginia to recognize concealed carry permits issued by all 50 states. This means that a resident of any other state who has been issued a concealed carry permit in that state may carry a concealed, loaded gun in public in Virginia. Virginia’s attorney general had recently severed concealed carry reciprocity agreements with several states due to concerns about lax permitting standards. The newly signed laws not only restore reciprocity with those states, but extend reciprocity to the entire country.

BILLS TO WATCH

Several bills are moving in Arizona that would attempt to nullify the application of federal laws and executive orders in the state. For example, HB 2024, which has passed the house, would prohibit any public personnel or funds from being used to enforce a federal executive order. A similar bill, SB 1452, was passed by the senate. A related bill, HB 2524, proposes the formation of an illegal compact between states. Any state that joins the compact would be prohibited from regulating firearms. An individual living in a member state could sue another member state for violating the compact, even if the individual has never been to the state. He or she would be entitled to reimbursement by that state for all legal expenses. Despite the fact that the compact would violate the United States Constitution, the bill passed a house committee last week.

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.

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