GVP bills continue to move

Although more than half of state legislatures have adjourned for the year, progress on strengthening gun laws is far from over. In Illinois, SB 1657, a dealer licensing bill that had already passed the Senate, has passed the House Judiciary committee.

A bill in California, AB 1525, which would strengthen firearm safety training requirements and warnings, passed the Assembly. The Disarm Hate Act (AB 785), will be heard in the Senate Public Safety Committee next month. Legislation (SB 497) that would extend California’s one-gun-a-month law to all firearms passed out of committee.

In Massachusetts, a budget bill (HB 3601) that has passed both chambers, would allocate over six million dollars to youth gun violence prevention programs.

In Nevada, a bill (SB 124) passed the Senate that strengthens procedures requiring domestic abusers to surrender firearms. The bill also prohibits stalkers from possessing firearms if a court, upon conviction, has made a finding that the victim has an ongoing, reasonable fear of physical harm.

Meanwhile, numerous strong bills are pending in states like Rhode Island and New Jersey where the 2017 legislative session will not adjourn for several months.
Trends include bills to legalize silencers, weaken concealed carry laws and make it easier to sue local officials

Legislators in Texas have sent a bill (HB 1819) to the governor that would repeal state restrictions on silencers. In Tennessee, a similar bill (SB 921) has been signed by the governor. The Tennessee governor also has a bill (HB 508) on his desk that would allow individuals to sue local governments for alleged violations of the state’s preemption law.

A Michigan bill, (SB 366) would allow 18-year olds to obtain concealed carry permits. The bill has cleared the Senate Judiciary committee and is heading to the Senate floor.

Ohio legislatures have held hearings on a permitless carry bill (HB 201), and legislation (B 142) that would repeal the requirement that a person carrying a concealed weapon notify law enforcement that he or she is carrying a concealed weapon when stopped.

Montana governor vetoes gun lobby bills

Governor Steve Bullock recently vetoed three gun lobby bills. SB99 would have imposed criminal liability against officials who enforce federal gun laws, HB 494 would have allowed guns in restaurants, and HB 280 would have permitted senators and representatives to carry guns on state property that is open to the public.