

GUN LAW TRENDWATCH

A ROUNDUP AND ANALYSIS OF THE LATEST STATE FIREARM LEGISLATION 2.01.2018

Gun violence prevention efforts are strong out of the gate in 2018, with several states responding to last year's horrific shootings with legislation to address specific loopholes in state gun laws.

After a shooter used a bump stock—a device that effectively turns a semiautomatic assault weapon into a machine gun—to murder 58 people and injure 851 more in Las Vegas, lawmakers in 27 states introduced legislation to prohibit these and other deadly accessories. **New Jersey** became the first state in 2018 to ban bump stocks, after **Massachusetts** enacted a similar law in late 2017. In **Delaware**, a bump stock bill recently passed out of its first committee (HB 300).

Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) bills are pending in 17 states. ERPO laws empower law enforcement and, in most states, family or household members, to petition a court to temporarily disarm people who pose a threat to themselves or others. Concrete warning signs are often exhibited by those in crisis, including the man who shot 46 people in a church in Sutherland Springs, Texas, last November. Although a military domestic violence conviction should have revoked the shooter's access to firearms, an ERPO would have empowered family members, who were aware of his violent behavior, to intervene.

In **Florida**, a bill to fund community-based violence intervention and prevention programs passed committee (HB 3551). A similar bill will be heard in **Maryland** on February 6 (HB 432). You can read more about the efficacy of such programs in our new report, *Investing in Intervention*, at giffordslawcenter.org/intervention.

PREVENTING SCHOOL SHOOTINGS

Hours after a teenager shot 16 fellow students at a **Kentucky** high school last week, state lawmakers introduced SB 103, which would allow certain employees with concealed carry permits to bring guns onto K–12 school grounds. However, lawmakers are also debating a much safer and more effective response to school shootings, HB 31, which would prevent access to firearms by minors.

LAWMAKERS DEFY VOTERS IN VIRGINIA

In the last month, a Republican-controlled state senate committee in **Virginia** has rejected 22 bills to save lives from gun violence, including a ban on bump stocks and assault weapons, universal background checks, and legislation to prevent domestic abusers from obtaining guns. This despite remarkable support for gun violence prevention from voters in the state's 2017 election.

GUN BILLS IN MOTION

BACKGROUND CHECKS

In **Arizona**, lawmakers filed a bill to put universal background checks on the ballot (HB 2024). Bills to strengthen background check requirements on gun purchasers are pending in at least 21 states.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

After passing the assembly in 2017, a **New York** bill to establish a process for domestic abusers to relinquish firearms is now before the senate (AB 980). A similar bill in **Ohio** had a hearing on January 31 (HB 305). Another Ohio bill creates dating partner restraining orders and passed a senate committee (HB 1). Bills to make it more difficult for domestic abusers to access firearms are pending in at least 17 states.

EXTREME RISK PROTECTION ORDER

A bill to temporarily disarm a dangerous person in crisis passed a house committee in **Illinois** (HB 2354). **Hawaii's** version will be heard in committee on February 1. ERPO bills are pending in at least 17 states, under a variety of names.

GUNS IN SCHOOLS

A bill to let guns on college and university campuses passed a committee in **South Dakota** (SB 87). A **Florida** bill authorizing school officials to allow people to carry guns on K-12 grounds also passed its first committee on January 25 (HB 621). In late 2017, the **Michigan** senate passed a bill to allow concealed carry permittees to carry on K-12 campuses (SB 584). Dangerous bills to allow guns in schools are pending in at least 24 states.

PERMITLESS CARRY

A bill to eliminate concealed carry permitting requirements passed its first committee in **South Dakota** on January 30 (SB 104). Another permitless carry bill is scheduled for a hearing in **Colorado** on February 14 (SB 97), and a similar bill in **Indiana** passed out of committee on January 29 (HB 1424). Reckless permitless concealed carry legislation is currently pending in at least 17 states.

PREEMPTION

A **New Hampshire** bill to impose personal liability on legislators found to have violated the state's firearm preemption law had a hearing on January 30 (HB 1749). Another extreme preemption bill that unconstitutionally subjects lawmakers to personal liability for their official acts is pending in **Iowa** (HSB 133).

URBAN GUN VIOLENCE

Bills that direct or secure funding to community-based violence intervention or prevention programs are pending in at least nine states. These types of programs have been shown to dramatically reduce gun violence in urban communities, and stable funding is the best way for states to support this lifesaving work.

For a complete list of firearm bills introduced in this legislative session, or any other questions about *Gun Law Trendwatch*, contact its author, Allison Anderman, at aanderman@giffords.org.

THE GUN LOBBY'S PLAN TO DOCK JUDGES' PAY

SF 2044 in **Iowa** would require the state judicial branch to pay a monthly fine and provide armed security personnel if it adopts policies prohibiting firearms in certain areas inside a courthouse. The armed security guard's salary would be deducted from the chief judge's salary.

LAWMAKER? ADVOCATE?
WE'RE HERE TO HELP

Reach out to Giffords Law Center today to find out how you can use our model laws to help craft lifesaving gun legislation in your home state.

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For nearly 25 years, the legal experts at Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence have been fighting for a safer America by researching, drafting, and defending the laws, policies, and programs proven to save lives from gun violence.