

GUN LAW TRENDWATCH

A ROUNDUP AND ANALYSIS OF THE LATEST STATE FIREARM LEGISLATION 2.15.2018

Domestic gun violence made headlines in recent weeks, and state legislators are working to close gaps in the laws that allow guns to fall into the hands of abusers.

In **Michigan** on Monday, a concealed carry permit holder shot and killed three women after taking them hostage inside the Detroit home he shared with his girlfriend, who was one of the victims. Three law enforcement officers and the husband of one of the victims were also wounded in the standoff. A little over a week earlier, a Detroit law enforcement officer was shot and killed while responding to a domestic violence call. Another two officers were shot and killed responding to a domestic violence call in **Ohio** on Saturday, February 10. That same day in **Kentucky**, a man used a gun to murder his girlfriend, her mother, and his parents.

Research shows abused women are five times more likely to be killed if their abuser owns a firearm, and domestic violence assaults involving a firearm are 12 times more likely to end in death than other types of assaults. In two of the states where these tragedies occurred—**Michigan** and **Ohio**—pending bills would help disarm domestic abusers (MI SB 668, OH HB 1, and OH SB 150).

Legislators in other states are also acting to close domestic violence loopholes. **Oregon** passed a bill out of committee on February 12 that would close the “boyfriend loophole” by including dating partners in the state’s domestic violence protections and prohibit stalkers from accessing firearms (HB 4145). Similar bills are also moving in **Kansas**, **Washington**, and **Utah**.

REJECTING THE GUN LOBBY’S AGENDA IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

In late January of this year, **New Hampshire** legislators failed to advance a bill that would expand the areas where guns can be carried on college and university campuses (HB 1542). Legislators also effectively rejected a bill that would make local legislators personally liable for their official acts by referring the draconian legislation for interim study on February 8 (HB 1749).

GUNS ON CAMPUS IN KANSAS

Currently **Kansas** allows individuals 21 years of age or older to carry concealed firearms without a permit. HB 2042 would allow individuals between 18 and 20 years of age to obtain a permit allowing them to carry hidden, loaded guns in public, including on most parts of college and university campuses.

GUN BILLS IN MOTION

BACKGROUND CHECKS

Two bills to strengthen background checks in **Massachusetts** passed out of committee on February 7 (SB 1298 and SB 2063). Legislators were scheduled to hear a **Tennessee** bill on February 14 that would require state agencies to share information when a person adjudicated mentally ill attempts to purchase a firearm (HB 958). Bills to strengthen background checks are pending in at least 23 states.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

In **Kansas**, a bill that would prohibit convicted domestic abusers from possessing firearms passed the house on February 2 and was heard by a senate committee on February 13 (HB 2145). A bill to strengthen domestic violence protections in **Utah** (SB 27) passed the senate on January 22 and a house committee on February 5. In **Washington**, SB 6298 passed the senate on February 9 and in **Oregon**, HB 4145, passed out of committee on February 12. At least 21 states have bills pending that would close domestic violence loopholes.

EXTREME RISK PROTECTION ORDER

Legislators in **Vermont** will hear a bill on February 15 that allows law enforcement officers to petition a court for an Extreme Risk Protection Order (SB 221). ERPO bills are pending in at least 18 states.

GUNS IN SCHOOLS

A bill in **South Dakota** that would allow guns on K-12 grounds passed a committee on February 12 (SD H 1271) and legislators heard another bill that would bring more guns onto college and university campuses on February 14 (HB 1299). A bill to allow guns in K-12 schools in **Colorado** is scheduled for a hearing on February 21 (HB 1037). Campus carry bills were heard in **Kansas** (HB 2042 passed the house on February 2 and had a senate hearing on February 14); **West Virginia** (HB 4298 passed committee on February 12); **Oklahoma** (SB 43 passed a house committee on February 5); and **Tennessee** (HB 884 was heard on February 14). Dangerous bills to allow guns in schools are pending in at least 22 states.

PERMITLESS CARRY

Bills to repeal the permitting requirement for concealed carry are moving in the following states: **Colorado** (SB 97 will be heard on February 14); **Indiana** (HB 1424 passed the house on February 5); and **Virginia** (HB 1255 passed committee on February 2). Reckless permitless concealed carry legislation is currently pending in at least 19 states.

URBAN GUN VIOLENCE

On February 6, legislators in **Maryland** heard a bill that secures funding for community-based violence intervention and prevention programs (HB 432). Similar bills in Maryland are scheduled for hearings on February 20 (HB 113) and February 27 (SB 545).

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

GUN LOBBY PANDERING TRUMPS CHILD SAFETY IN ARIZONA

Republican Kevin Payne sponsored a bill in the Arizona legislature in February to prevent the state's Department of Child Safety from requiring adults caring for foster children to safely store their firearms to prevent unintentional shootings and youth suicides (HB 2535).

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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.