

# GUN LAW TRENDWATCH

A ROUNDUP AND ANALYSIS OF THE LATEST STATE FIREARM LEGISLATION 3.1.2018

## Parkland survivors confront legislators and help move GVP legislation in Florida.

On February 14, our nation experienced another horrific act of senseless and preventable gun violence, this time at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, where 17 students and staff members were killed. The shooter, known to be disturbed, dangerous, and armed, was able to legally purchase an AR-15–style weapon of war and multiple high capacity magazines while he was still too young to purchase alcohol.

As always, many of the federal and state legislators in the grip of the gun lobby offered thoughts and prayers, or worse, calls to put guns in the hands of teachers—a dangerous policy that would undoubtedly expose children and teens to more shootings, not fewer. **Sensible lawmakers, however, have issued calls for safer, evidence-based legislation such as extreme risk protection orders (ERPO)** that would allow loved ones to temporarily disarm a person in crisis.

Responding to the courageous, young survivors of the Parkland shooting who have mobilized to demand action, state legislators in **Florida** are rapidly attempting to pass legislation in the wake of the tragedy. A moving bill (SB 7026) would implement many gun violence prevention policies including an ERPO law. Unfortunately, the bill would also create a voluntary “school marshal” program for arming teachers; it passed through a senate committee on Feb. 26. A house bill (HB 7101) would enact similar provisions to arm teachers as well as numerous other gun violence prevention policies such as prohibiting sales of firearms to individuals under 21. Federal lawmakers are also contemplating legislation to incentivize states to enact ERPO-style laws (HR 2598 and S 1212).

## EXECUTIVE ORDER AND BIPARTISAN LEGISLATION IN RHODE ISLAND TO PREVENT MASS SHOOTINGS

On Monday, Governor Gina Raimondo of **Rhode Island** signed an executive order directing law enforcement to investigate reports of individuals who have made threats or suspicious statements indicating they intend to commit violence. Last week, the state house introduced a bipartisan bill that would create an Extreme Risk Protection Order, allowing a family, household member, or law enforcement to petition a court to temporarily disarm a person in crisis (HB 7688).

## ILLINOIS GUN DEALER BILL HEADED TO GOVERNOR

On Feb. 28, a bill to require state licensing and regulation of gun dealers passed the house in **Illinois** with bipartisan support. SB 1657 now heads to Governor Rauner for signature.

# GUN BILLS IN MOTION

## BACKGROUND CHECKS

**Oregon** HB 4145 is on the governor's desk (lie and try); **Maryland** SB 860 was set for a hearing on Feb. 28, and HB 730 and HB 1031 are scheduled for hearings on Mar. 6 (strengthen definition of "transfer"); **Missouri** HB 2281 was set for a hearing on Feb. 27 (private-sale loophole); **New Jersey** AB 2757 was set for a hearing on Feb. 28 (strengthen background checks). **Tennessee** HB 958 was set for a hearing on Feb. 28 (lie and try). Legislation to strengthen or enact background checks is pending in at least 22 states.

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

A bill in **Oregon**, HB 4145 (closes the "boyfriend loophole") is on the governor's desk. In **Ohio**, HB 1, (dating violence protective order) passed the senate on Feb. 20 and is in concurrence. A **Utah** bill (HB 333) passed committee on Feb. 23. **Washington** SB 6298 (prohibit additional domestic abusers from possessing guns), passed a house committee on Feb. 22.

Bills to enact or strengthen laws

disarming domestic abusers were set to be heard in **Maryland** (SB 1036, Feb. 28 and HB 1562, Mar. 1) and **Missouri** (HB 1849, Feb. 27). At least 23 states have bills pending that would close domestic violence loopholes.

## EXTREME RISK PROTECTION ORDER

In **Illinois**, an Extreme Risk Protection Order bill passed committee on Feb. 21 (SB 559). The following states have ERPO bills that were scheduled to be heard: **Alaska** (HB 75, Feb. 28); **Maryland** (H 1302, Mar. 1); **New Jersey** (AB 1217, Feb. 28); **New York** (A 8976, Feb. 27); and **Vermont** (SB 221, multiple hearings on Feb. 27 and 28). ERPO bills are pending in at least 21 states.

## GUNS IN SCHOOLS

**Missouri** HB 1942 passed committee on Feb. 15 (campus); **West Virginia** HB 4298 passed committee on Feb. 12 (campus); **Indiana** SB 33 passed a house committee on Feb. 22 (K-12); **South Dakota** HB 1271 passed a senate

committee on Feb. 14 (K-12); **Maryland** HB 760 is scheduled to be heard on Mar. 6 (K-12); **Maine** HB 1215 was set to be heard on Feb. 28 (K-12). Guns in school or on campus bills are pending in at least 26 states.

## PERMITLESS CARRY

**Colorado** SB 97 passed a committee on Feb. 27; **Indiana** HB 1424 passed a senate committee on Feb. 22 and was set to be heard on Mar. 1; **Oklahoma** HB 3374 passed a committee on Feb. 22, SB 910 passed a committee on Feb. 15, and HB 2918, HB 2951, and HB 3374 were scheduled to be heard on Feb. 28; **Tennessee** HB 1833 was scheduled to have a hearing on Feb. 28. Reckless permitless concealed carry legislation is currently pending in at least 19 states.

**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](mailto:aanderman@giffords.org).**

## WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENS WHEN TEACHERS ARE ARMED

After President Trump and gun lobby legislators called for laws to arm teachers in schools, on Feb. 28 a Dalton, Georgia, high school teacher fired his gun after barricading himself in a classroom. Though no students were shot, this incident highlights how extremely ill-conceived it is to arm teachers.

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