

# GUN LAW TRENDWATCH

A ROUNDUP AND ANALYSIS OF THE LATEST STATE FIREARM LEGISLATION 3.15.2018

## The Parkland survivors shouted “enough!” and state legislators are listening.

The devastation of the Parkland shooting and the action of the students leading the charge for meaningful change has permeated our collective consciousness. Consequently, states are making significant gains in gun violence prevention efforts so far this year.

**Florida**, the site of the Parkland massacre and a state with very weak gun laws, enacted a sweeping piece of gun safety legislation on March 9 (SB 7026). The new law creates a risk protection order that allows family or household members and law enforcement to petition a court for an order temporarily disarming a person determined to be a danger to themselves or others. The law also prohibits individuals under the age of 21 from purchasing firearms, creates a three-day waiting period for most gun purchases, and bans bump stocks—the type of trigger accelerator used in the Las Vegas shooting in October, 2017. Although the law does allow schools to make the dangerous choice to arm teachers and other civilians, the gun safety aspects of this legislation in a state previously hamstrung by the gun lobby is historic.

Governor Kate Brown signed significant gun safety legislation in **Oregon** on March 5 that closes the “boyfriend loophole” and prohibits stalkers from purchasing or possessing guns (HB 4145). The new law also makes it easier for law enforcement to investigate individuals who fail background checks. On March 6, **Washington** enacted a ban on trigger activators such as bump stocks.

## PEOPLE WHO CAN'T BUY BEER SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO BUY ASSAULT WEAPONS

The perpetrators of the two worst school shootings in US history were both under the age of 21. At Giffords Law Center, we call for policies that prohibit the purchase of semiautomatic long guns by young adults ages 18-20, a group disproportionately at risk of committing gun violence. Recognizing these dangers, at least 11 states have recently introduced legislation to raise the minimum age to 21 to purchase or possess some or all firearms.

## RENEWED INTEREST IN ASSAULT WEAPON REGULATION POST- PARKLAND

Since the Parkland massacre in which the shooter used an assault weapon, legislators in at least eight states have introduced bans on these exceedingly dangerous, military-style weapons.

# GUN BILLS IN MOTION

## BACKGROUND CHECKS

**Tennessee** SB 834 (hearing set for March 13); **New Jersey** AB 2757 (passed committee on March 5); **New York** AB 2406 (passed assembly on March 6); and **Oregon** HB 4145 (enacted March 5). At least 19 states have legislation pending to strengthen or enact background checks.

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

**Kansas** HB 2145 (passed a senate committee on March 6); **Maryland** SB 1036 (passed a committee on March 9); **New York** AB 5025 (passed the assembly on March 6); **Ohio** HB 1 (sent to the governor on March 5); **Oregon** HB 4145 (enacted on March 5); **Vermont** HB 422 (scheduled for hearings on March 14 and 15); and **Washington** SB 6298 (sent to the governor on March 9). At least 19 states still have bills pending that would close domestic violence loopholes.

## EXTREME RISK PROTECTION ORDER

**Florida** enacted a risk protection order on March 9 (SB 7026). ERPO bills are moving in the following states: **Alaska** HB 75 (hearings on March 12

and 14); **New Jersey** AB 1181 (passed a committee on March 5) and AB 1217 (passed a committee on March 5); **New York** AB 8976 (passed the assembly on March 6); and **Vermont** SB 221 (passed the senate on March 1). ERPO bills are pending in at least 23 states.

## GUNS IN SCHOOLS

**Florida** SB 7026 (K-12—enacted on March 6); **Alabama** HB 449 (K-12—scheduled to be heard on March 14); **Missouri** HB 1936 (campus—passed a committee on February 28); **Oklahoma** HB 3192 (K-12—passed a committee on March 1); **South Dakota** (K-12—sent to the governor on March 8); and **West Virginia** SB 244 (K-12—sent to the governor on March 10). Guns in school or on campus bills are pending in at least 26 states.

## PERMITLESS CARRY

**Colorado** SB 97 (passed the senate on March 8); **Oklahoma** HB 2918 and HB 2951 (passed committees on March 1), HB 3374 (passed a committee on

February 27), and SB 910 (passed the senate on March 6). Reckless permitless concealed carry legislation is currently pending in at least 19 states.

## URBAN GUN VIOLENCE

**California** AB 2100 (scheduled to be heard on March 20); **Maryland** HB 1508 (set for hearing on March 8); **Rhode Island** HB 7200 (scheduled to be heard on March 13); **Florida** HB 5001 (sent to the governor on March 11); **Maryland** HB 113 (passed the house on March 2), HB 432 (passed a committee on March 8), and SB 122 (passed a committee on March 8). Ten states currently have similar bills pending.

**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).**

## SOUTH DAKOTA THANKS TRUMP INSTEAD OF PASSING GUN LAWS

In 2016, South Dakota had the 22nd highest rate of gun deaths among the states. Rather than passing legislation to reduce the increasing rate of gun deaths in their state, or improve the F grade South Dakota received on our Gun Law Scorecard, lawmakers passed a resolution thanking Donald Trump for “making America great again” (SD SCR 16).

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.

[giffordslawcenter.org/trendwatch](http://giffordslawcenter.org/trendwatch)

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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.