Following Parkland, a New Jersey gun violence prevention package first proposed after Sandy Hook gains momentum.

**New Jersey** is recognized for having some of the strongest gun laws in the nation. In fact, the state consistently earns a grade of A- on Giffords Law Center’s *Annual Gun Law Scorecard*. But when compared with high-income countries around the world, even states with the most comprehensive gun laws still have room to improve.

With that in mind, shortly after the Sandy Hook massacre, New Jersey Assembly Majority Leader Louis Greenwald met with survivors and proposed a comprehensive gun violence prevention legislative package consisting of 21 bills. While most of the package was enacted over the intervening five years, certain major provisions—such as a requirement that all gun sales be conducted through a licensed gun dealer—languished.

The national outcry following another catastrophic school shooting—this time in Parkland, Florida—gave New Jersey legislators the push they needed to move the final, major provisions of Greenwald’s effort. On March 26, the assembly passed a package of six gun violence prevention bills that would, among other things, create an extreme risk protection order law that allows family members and law enforcement to temporarily disarm a dangerous person (AB 1217), reduce maximum ammunition magazine capacity to 10 rounds (AB 2761), require all gun sales to be processed through a federally licensed dealer (AB 2757), and prohibit individuals from possessing ammunition capable of penetrating body armor (AB 2759). The bills now head to the state senate where they are expected to pass.

**ILLINOIS LEGISLATORS MOVING BILLS TO REGULATE ASSAULT WEAPONS**

On March 15, **Illinois** legislators sent a bill to the governor that would require a 72-hour waiting period for the purchase of an assault weapon (HB 1468). Another bill, HB 1465, which would prohibit transfer of an assault weapon to anyone under the age of 21, has passed the senate and is in the house for concurrence.

**DANGEROUS BALLOT MEASURE IN IOWA PASSES BOTH HOUSES**

On March 21, the **Iowa** senate passed HJR 2009, a bill that would allow voters to amend the state constitution to make it easier to challenge gun laws in court. The amendment, which involves a complicated legal doctrine, would force state courts to review gun laws under a very high standard that few state or federal courts have ever used to review gun laws.
GUN BILLS IN MOTION

BACKGROUND CHECKS
Illinois HB 5534 (scheduled to be heard on April 9); New Jersey
AB 2757 (passed assembly on March 26); Tennessee SB 834 (passed
a committee on March 20); and Vermont SB 55 (passed a committee
on March 23 and was scheduled to be heard on March 28). At least 19 states
have legislation pending to strengthen or enact background checks.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
Kansas HB 2145 (passed senate on March 15 and is currently in
concurrency); Louisiana SB 231 (passed a committee on March 21 and
was scheduled to be heard on March 26); Maryland SB 1036 (passed senate
on March 14 and is scheduled for a hearing on April 3); HB 1646 (passed
house on March 13); Missouri HB 2276 (passed a committee on March 15);
Utah SB 27 (enacted on March 19); and Washington SB 6298 (enacted on
March 22). At least 18 states still have bills pending that would close domestic
violence loopholes.

EXTREME RISK PROTECTION ORDER
Illinois HB 772 (passed senate on February 28); Maryland HB 1302
(passed house on March 15 and is scheduled to be heard on March 29);
and New Jersey AB 1181 and AB 1217 (passed assembly on March 26).
ERPO bills are pending in at least 24 states.

GUNS IN SCHOOLS
Alabama HB 435 (K–12—passed a committee March 15 and was scheduled
to be heard March 26); Kansas HB 2789 (K–12—was scheduled to be heard
March 26); South Dakota (K–12—enacted March 23); and West Virginia
SB 244 (K–12—sent to the governor March 21). Guns in school or on campus
bills are pending in at least 23 states.

PERMITLESS CARRY
Oklahoma HB 2918 (passed house on March 14) and HB 3374 (passed house
on March 13). Reckless permitless carry legislation is currently pending in
at least 18 states.

URBAN GUN VIOLENCE
California AB 2100 (passed a committee on March 20); Florida
HB 5001 (enacted on March 16); Illinois HB 4917 and HB 5161 (both
scheduled to be heard on April 12) and HB 5616 (scheduled to be heard on
April 11); Maryland HB 113 (was set for hearing on March 27) and HB 432
(passed house on March 15 and was set for hearing on March 27), and SB 122
(passed senate on March 12 and was scheduled to be heard on March
27); Nebraska LB 944 (passed a committee on March 21); and Rhode
Island HB 7200 (was scheduled to be heard on March 27). Eight states
currently have UGV 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.

FORCING PRIVATE INSURERS TO COVER GUNS IN SCHOOLS
After Kansas enacted a law in 2013 allowing schools to arm teachers,
the insurance provider for over 85% of school districts in Kansas refused
to insure schools that allowed guns, citing high liability risks. This year,
lawmakers introduced HB 2789 (was scheduled be Heard in committee on
March 27) and SB 434 to force insurance companies to provide coverage.