

GUN LAW TRENDWATCH

A ROUNDUP AND ANALYSIS OF THE LATEST STATE FIREARM LEGISLATION 3.29.2018

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 concurrence); **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.



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.

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 to be heard in committee on March 27) and SB 434 to force insurance companies to provide coverage.

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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.