

GUN LAW TRENDWATCH

A ROUNDUP AND ANALYSIS OF THE LATEST STATE FIREARM LEGISLATION 5.17.2018

Republican governors show courage, standing up to the NRA after Parkland.

On May 18, the Republican governor of **Oklahoma**, Mary Fallin, defied the gun lobby's efforts to eliminate concealed carry permitting requirements and vetoed SB 1212. Governor Fallin explained clearly why this legislation would jeopardize her constituents' safety, writing that the bill "eliminates the training requirements for persons carrying a firearm in Oklahoma [and] eliminates the current ability of Oklahoma law enforcement to distinguish between those carrying guns who have been trained and vetted, and those who have not."

Governor Fallin is the latest Republican governor to stand up to the NRA following the Parkland shooting in February. Other Republican governors have put gun violence prevention ahead of gun lobby profits in recent months, such as Rick Scott in **Florida** (SB 7026), Larry Hogan in **Maryland** (HB 1302), and Phil Scott in **Vermont** (SB 221), who each signed bills creating extreme risk protection orders, among other lifesaving gun safety measures. Both **Utah's** and **Ohio's** Republican governors also signed bills to make it more difficult for domestic abusers to access guns (Utah SB 27 and Ohio HB 1).

While it is encouraging and long overdue to see states typically friendly to the gun lobby take meaningful action on gun violence prevention, looking towards 2019, legislators in states like this should proactively pursue gun safety policies *before* a high publicity tragedy strikes their state or another. Experts at Giffords Law Center are available to work with legislators to identify policies that are most likely to prevent gun violence in their states.

ANOTHER CHANCE FOR DEALER LICENSING IN ILLINOIS

Although **Illinois** Governor Rauner vetoed HB 1273, a gun dealer licensing bill that aimed to reduce illegal gun trafficking in the state, the senate passed a revised version of the bill, SB 337, on May 16. Advocates hope to send Governor Rauner SB 337 before the end of May.

CONNECTICUT WILL LIKELY BE THE SEVENTH STATE TO BAN BUMP STOCKS

On May 8, the **Connecticut** legislature passed a bill banning firearm accessories known as bump stocks (HB 5542). The bill is now with Governor Malloy, who has said he will sign it. Connecticut would join a list of six states to ban these deadly accessories. Five of these states—Florida, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and Washington—enacted bans after a bump stock was used in Las Vegas to massacre 58 people last October.

GUN BILLS IN MOTION

BACKGROUND CHECKS

New York SB 5808 (scheduled to be heard on May 15). At least 13 states currently have legislation pending to strengthen or enact background checks.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Ohio HB 585 (scheduled to be heard on May 16); **Louisiana** HB 776 (sent to governor on May 10), HB 896 (sent to governor on May 10), and SB 231 (passed both chambers on May 14); and **New York** (SB 8121 signed by governor on May 12). At least 10 states still have bills pending that would close domestic violence loopholes.

EXTREME RISK PROTECTION ORDER

Illinois HB 2354 (passed committee on May 15); **New Jersey** AB 1217 and SB 2259 (scheduled to be heard on May 21); **Ohio** HB 585 and SB 278 (scheduled to be heard on May 16); and **Rhode Island** SB 2492 (hearing scheduled on May 17). ERPO bills are pending in at least 14 states.

GUNS IN SCHOOLS

Louisiana HB 602 (scheduled to be heard in a senate committee on May 15). Bills to allow guns in school or on campus are pending in at least 11 states.

PERMITLESS CARRY

Oklahoma SB 1212 (vetoed on May 18, 2018). Reckless permitless concealed carry legislation is still pending in at least seven states.

DEFENSIVE VICTORY HIGHLIGHTS

The gun violence prevention movement has seen numerous defensive victories so far in 2018. Efforts to weaken assault weapon laws have failed in three states. Bills to bring guns onto the campuses of colleges and universities have been defeated in 16 states. Policies to arm teachers and other civilians, or bring guns into K-12 schools in other ways, were stopped in 19 states. Permitless carry efforts have been defeated in 10 states, as have efforts to enact or expand “stand your ground” laws in 8 states. Bills that would deregulate silencers have been defeated in five states in 2018.

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.

GVP ADVOCATES
HAVE DEFEATED
22 PERMITLESS
CARRY BILLS IN
10 STATES IN 2018

URBAN GUN VIOLENCE

Rhode Island HB 7200 (scheduled to be heard on May 15). Six states currently have UGV bills pending.

IOWA BILL TO ALLOW DRUNK PEOPLE TO CARRY FIREARMS FAILS

A bill authored by the Iowa House Judiciary Committee to considerably weaken gun laws failed to advance this session. Among other things, HSB 133 would have amended an existing law prohibiting intoxicated people from carrying guns. Instead, the bill authorized people to carry guns in their place of business or on their own property, *even if their blood alcohol level would have prohibited them from being able legally to operate a vehicle.*

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.

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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.