

GUN LAW TRENDWATCH

A ROUNDUP AND ANALYSIS OF THE LATEST STATE FIREARM LEGISLATION 2.19.2019

In February, the House Judiciary Committee held the first congressional gun safety hearing in over 10 years and the country commemorated the first anniversary of the Parkland massacre.

Gun violence prevention has already featured prominently in the 2019 state and federal legislative cycle. On February 6, a congressional task force led by Representative Mike Thompson (CA-05) held the first gun violence prevention hearing in more than a decade. Activists, survivors, and experts, including Giffords Law Center Executive Director Robyn Thomas, powerfully testified to the toll that gun violence takes and the solutions that can address this crisis.

The following week, Americans commemorated the one-year anniversary of the massacre at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, on February 14, 2018. Though nothing can bring back the 17 students and educators who were killed that day, or the more than 36,000 Americans who are senselessly killed each year by guns, the Parkland shooting sparked a tidal wave of activism in 2018 that resulted in unprecedented state legislative action that has continued into 2019.

Gun safety bills are moving rapidly. **Nevada** Governor Steve Sisolak signed a background check law. Six gun violence prevention bills are on the governor's desk in **New York**. Legislators in **New Mexico** have passed four bills through their first chamber. Comprehensive reform packages are pending in **New Jersey**, **California**, and **New Hampshire**.

Undoubtedly, the gun violence prevention landscape has changed dramatically since the Parkland tragedy just over a year ago. The incredible courage of the students and the voices of gun violence survivors, activists, and experts will resound throughout 2019 and far into the future to continue this historic progress.

A NEW DAY IN NEW MEXICO

The 2018 midterms shifted the balance of the **New Mexico** legislature towards gun safety. HB 8 (background checks), HB 87 (domestic violence) and HB 83 (extreme risk protection order) have all passed the house and SB 8 (background checks) has passed the senate. Another three bills that would close background check loopholes, disarm domestic abusers, and make it harder for minors to access guns have passed at least one committee.

PERMITLESS CARRY IN SOUTH DAKOTA

Governor Kristi Noem failed residents of **South Dakota** by signing a bill to repeal the requirement that people carrying hidden, loaded guns in public must obtain a permit and pass a background check (SB 47). Although a poll showed 84% of residents support the permit and background check law, Governor Noem voted against their safety and in favor of the gun lobby.

GUN BILLS IN MOTION

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION BILL

BACKGROUND CHECKS

Nevada SB 143 was signed by the governor. **New Mexico** HB 8 passed the house and SB 8 passed the senate. **Illinois** HB 888 has a hearing February 19. **New Hampshire** HB 109 has a hearing February 21. **Washington** HB 1465 has a hearing February 20. **Maryland** HB 96 and HB 786 have hearings February 25, SB 346 has a hearing February 21, and SB 737 has a hearing February 27. At least 23 states currently have legislation pending to strengthen or enact background checks.

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION BILL

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

New Mexico HB 87 passed the house and SB 328 passed a committee. **North Dakota** HB 1393 passed the house. **Indiana** HB 1643 passed a committee. **Illinois** HB 887 has a hearing February 19. **Washington** HB 1225 and SB 5143 each passed a committee, and HB 1786 has a hearing scheduled for February 20. At least 18 states have bills pending that would close domestic violence loopholes.

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION BILL

EXTREME RISK PROTECTION ORDER

ERPOs provide a process for certain individuals, usually family or law enforcement, to petition for an order to remove firearms from people who may be a danger to themselves or others. **Indiana** HB 1651 passed the house. **New Mexico** HB 83 passed the house. **Nebraska** LB 58 has a hearing on February 28. **New Hampshire** HB 687 has a hearing scheduled for March 5. **Washington** SB 5027 passed a committee and SB 5745 has hearings February 19 and 21. ERPO bills are pending in at least 20 states.

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION BILL

URBAN GUN VIOLENCE

Community-based urban gun violence reduction strategies that focus on identifying individuals at high risk for involvement in shootings have been shown to significantly reduce gun violence in cities. Currently, at least eight states have bills pending that would allocate or protect funding for such programs.

GUN LOBBY BILL

GUNS IN SCHOOLS

Virginia HB 1656 and HB 2721 passed both chambers. **Indiana** SB 127 passed the senate and HB 1253 passed the house. **Florida** SB 598 has a hearing February 19. **South Dakota** SB 122 passed a committee. **Montana** HB 325 and HB 357 passed a committee. **Nebraska** LB 343 has a hearing February 28. **Maryland** HB 1247 has a hearing February 25. Dangerous bills to allow guns in schools are pending in at least 26 states.

GUN LOBBY BILL

PERMITLESS CARRY

Oklahoma HB 2597 passed the house and HB 1142 passed a committee. **Virginia** SB 1012 passed a committee. There are reckless permitless carry bills pending in at least nine states.

For more information on the 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.

EXTREME GUN LOBBY BILL

IOWA BILL WOULD FORCE INSURANCE COMPANIES TO COVER DANGEROUS PRACTICES

A new bill pending in Iowa puts safety last and gun industry revenue first. HB 69 attempts to make it easier for schools to arm teachers and other civilians. The bill would prevent insurance companies from denying coverage to or increasing premiums for schools that jeopardize the safety of children by allowing guns on their properties.

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For 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.