

GUN LAW TRENDWATCH

A ROUNDUP AND ANALYSIS OF THE LATEST STATE FIREARM LEGISLATION 3.4.2019

Extreme risk protection orders continue to be a top priority in 2019, with state and federal lawmakers introducing bills to disarm people who pose a threat to themselves or others.

Extreme risk protection order (ERPO) policies save lives by enabling law enforcement, family members, or others to temporarily disarm a person in crisis. Studies of ERPOs in Connecticut and Indiana have demonstrated that these laws are particularly effective at reducing gun suicides, which make up two-thirds of American gun deaths. ERPOs have already been used to disarm would-be mass shooters, such as a student in Vermont who kept a “journal of an active shooter” and the brother of the Parkland gunman, who showed signs of violence after the massacre.

On February 25, **New York** became the first state to enact an ERPO in 2019, bringing the total number of states with these laws to 14. Several other states are moving quickly to follow suit. **New Mexico** advanced HB 83 through the house. A **Colorado** ERPO, HB 1177, passed the house on March 4. **Hawaii** SB 1466 passed two committees. A **California** bill (AB 61) to allow school personnel, co-workers, and employers to petition for an ERPO (known as a Gun Violence Restraining Order) is pending. ERPO bills have been introduced in 21 additional states.

A federal bill, S. 506, that would authorize grants to states that enact ERPO legislation has been introduced by Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA). Its companion bill, H.R. 1236, was introduced by Representative Salud Carbajal (D-CA) with bipartisan support from Representative Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA). The rapid movement of ERPO bills in the first two months of 2019 is proof that legislators are finally listening to the will of the American people and taking action to save lives from gun violence.

NEVADA VOTERS WIN BACKGROUND CHECKS BATTLE

In 2016, **Nevada** voters passed a universal background checks ballot initiative, but the governor and attorney general refused to implement the law. In 2018, voters elected Governor Sisolak, who signed SB 143 on February 15, ensuring all gun purchasers in Nevada will be subject to background checks beginning in 2020.

NEW OKLAHOMA GOVERNOR BRINGS NEW DANGERS

In 2018, then-governor of **Oklahoma** Mary Fallin vetoed a permitless carry bill, citing concerns from law enforcement and the business community. In 2019, the new NRA-backed governor, Kevin Stitt, pledged to sign the legislation. On February 25, faith leaders prayed outside Governor Stitt's office, imploring him to reject this dangerous legislation. Stitt signed HB 2597 on February 27. Oklahoma, which received an F on Giffords Law Center's **Annual Gun Law Scorecard**, will now allow residents to carry concealed weapons without passing a background check.

GUN BILLS IN MOTION

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION BILL

BACKGROUND CHECKS

Washington HB 1465 passed a committee. **Illinois** HB 888 has a hearing March 5. **Minnesota** HB 8 passed the house. **Maryland** SB 737 had a hearing February 27. **New Mexico** SB 8 passed two house committees. At least 27 states currently have legislation pending to strengthen or enact background checks.

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION BILL

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Washington HB 1786 and HB 1517 each passed a committee. **Ohio** SB 43 passed a committee. **Utah** HB 332 has a hearing on March 5. **Illinois** HB 887 has a hearing on March 5. At least 23 states have bills pending that would close domestic violence loopholes that allow abusers to access guns.

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION BILL

EXTREME RISK PROTECTION ORDER

New York SB 2451/AB 2689 was signed into law on February 25. **California** AB 165, **Ohio** SB 19, **Washington** SB

5745, and **Minnesota** HB 9 all passed committees. **New Hampshire** HB 687 has a hearing scheduled for March 5. **Colorado** HB 1177 passed the house on March 4. ERPO bills are pending in at least 26 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. **Minnesota** SB 464 passed a committee. **Illinois** HB 2070 has a hearing March 5. Currently, 10 states have bills pending to allocate or protect funding for such programs.

GUN LOBBY BILL

GUNS IN SCHOOLS

Virginia HB 1656 was enacted February 21. **North Dakota** HB 1332 passed the house. **Montana** HB 325, HB 357, and HB 567 passed the house. **West Virginia** HB 2519 passed the house. **Arizona** HB 2693 passed two

committees. **New Mexico** HB 129 passed the house. **Florida** SB 598, **Oklahoma** HB 2336, and **Washington** SB 5150 passed committees. **Missouri** HB 575 has a hearing March 4. **Maryland** SB 884 has a hearing March 12. Dangerous bills to allow guns in school or on campus are pending in at least 27 states.

GUN LOBBY BILL

PERMITLESS CARRY

Permitless carry laws allow individuals to carry concealed weapons without a background check and can increase the likelihood of deadly confrontations in public. **Oklahoma** HB 2597 was enacted on February 27. **Kentucky** SB 150 passed both chambers. There are reckless permitless carry bills pending in at least 13 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?

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: MISSISSIPPI LAWMAKERS REJECT DANGEROUS GUN BILL

Unsuccessful US Senate candidate Chris McDaniel introduced SB 2672, which would declare all federal gun laws a violation of the Second Amendment, including laws that prohibit dangerous individuals from possessing guns. Fortunately, this extreme bill died in committee less than two weeks after it was introduced.

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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.