

GUN LAW TRENDWATCH

A ROUNDUP AND ANALYSIS OF THE LATEST STATE FIREARM LEGISLATION 5.1.2019

A number of extremist sheriffs are leading efforts to protect guns from laws rather than protecting residents from gun violence.

For decades, local governments have declared themselves sanctuaries for individuals fleeing persecution in their home countries. Relying on the protections granted by the United States Constitution, these local governments refused to enforce federal immigration laws.

In a perversion of the notion of “sanctuary,” a number of rogue local sheriffs are trying to make their cities sanctuaries for guns by refusing to enforce state gun laws they don’t like, despite the fact that these officers have taken oaths to enforce such laws.

One such sheriff is Tony Mace, chairman of the **New Mexico** Sheriff’s Association, who claims residents of his county are entitled to “sanctuary” from several new gun violence prevention laws enacted this session. New Mexico’s new laws ensure that all gun purchases are subject to background checks (a policy supported by nine out of 10 Americans) and allow judges to temporarily disarm individuals proven to be a danger to themselves or others. Similar laws in other states have survived legal challenges and been proven constitutional.

Appointing himself both legislator and judge, Sheriff Mace declared the new laws unconstitutional and unenforceable. And this blatant disrespect for the rule of law isn’t limited to New Mexico—efforts to declare sanctuary for guns are underway in counties in nine states, including **Colorado** and **Illinois**.

Rather than declaring their cities sanctuaries for guns and gun industry profits, sheriffs should focus on keeping the residents they’ve sworn to protect safe from the ever-growing scourge of gun violence.

MISSOURI LEGISLATURE HOLDS RARE HEARING ON GUN SAFETY

The **Missouri** legislature held a rare hearing on a gun violence prevention bill on April 16. The House Committee on General Laws heard HB 960, which would prohibit domestic violence misdemeanants, and those subject to protective orders, from possessing guns. The bill would also improve efforts to enter records of prohibited domestic abusers into the National Instant Criminal Background Check System.

NRA PEDDLES FEAR IN INDIANA

Last week in Indianapolis, **Indiana**, the NRA held its annual convention—despite recent polling that the majority of Hoosiers want stronger gun laws. Peddling its fear-based agenda to drive gun sales, one convention seminar promised to teach attendees how to protect their families from threats resulting from “deteriorating conditions in Syria, active jihadist social media recruitment . . . [and] our porous borders.” This comes on the heels of widely reported turmoil within NRA leadership, including the ousting of NRA President Oliver North.

GUN BILLS IN MOTION

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION BILL

BACKGROUND CHECKS

Washington HB 1465 passed both chambers. **Minnesota** HF 2792 passed the house. **New Hampshire** HB 109 had a hearing April 30. Legislation to strengthen or enact background checks is pending in 20 states.

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION BILL

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Washington HB 1517, HB 1225, and HB 1786 were sent to the governor. **Oregon** HB 2013 passed the house. **Texas** SB 666 passed the senate. At least 21 states have bills pending that would close domestic violence loopholes that allow abusers to access guns.

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION BILL

EXTREME RISK PROTECTION ORDER

Hawaii SB 1466 passed both chambers. **Indiana** HB 1651, which would strengthen existing law, passed both chambers. **Washington** SB 5027, which would strengthen existing law, passed both chambers. **Minnesota** HF 2792 passed the house. **California** AB 61, which would strengthen existing

law, passed a committee. Extreme risk protection order bills are pending in at least 23 states.

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION BILL

URBAN GUN VIOLENCE

California AB 18 passed a second committee and has a hearing May 1, AB 166 passed a committee, and AB 656 passed a committee and has a hearing May 1. Currently, eight states have bills pending that would allocate or protect funding for such programs.

GUN LOBBY BILL

GUNS IN SCHOOLS

West Virginia SB 441 was enacted April 16. **Florida** SB 7030 passed the senate. **Texas** SB 243 and SB 811 passed the senate and SB 117, HB 1288, HB 3946 and HB 1143 all passed a committee. **Arkansas** SB 383 was enacted. **Indiana** SB 119 and SB 127 passed conference committee. **Oklahoma** HB 2336 passed a senate committee. **South Carolina** SB 293 passed the senate. Dangerous bills to allow guns in school or on campus are pending in at least 22 states.

GUN LOBBY BILL

PERMITLESS CARRY

There are reckless permitless carry bills pending in at least six states.

DEFENSIVE VICTORY HIGHLIGHTS

So far in 2019, the gun violence prevention movement has defeated bills to weaken concealed carry permitting laws in seven states; to allow guns onto local and state property in six states; to arm teachers and other civilians in K-12 schools in seven states; and to allow concealed carry without a permit in four states. Other defeated gun lobby-backed legislation includes bills that would force businesses to allow guns in parking lots in one state; to bring guns onto the campuses of colleges and universities in six states; and to enact or expand "stand your ground" laws in four states.

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.



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EXTREME GUN LOBBY BILL: NEVER HANDLED A GUN? HERE'S YOUR CCW PERMIT.

Tennessee HB 1264 would repeal the requirement that an applicant for a concealed carry permit complete an in-person handgun safety course that includes live firing exercises. Instead, the bill allows an applicant to prove competency with a handgun by watching an online course.

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