

# GUN LAW TRENDWATCH

A ROUNDUP AND ANALYSIS OF THE LATEST STATE FIREARM LEGISLATION 5.14.2019

Many state legislatures are responding to polling that shows strong support for safer gun laws, while others maintain allegiance to the gun lobby.

Following years of catastrophic mass shootings, rising gun suicide rates, and daily carnage on the streets of numerous cities, American voters are demanding change. An Associated Press poll conducted in February 2019 showed 69 percent of respondents are in favor of stronger gun laws. This sentiment is echoed at the state level. But while some states are hearing the message loud and clear, others are not.

Polling in April 2018 by the *Star Tribune* in **Minnesota** and in 2019 by the nonpartisan group SurveyUSA showed that nine out of 10 Minnesotans support background checks on all gun purchases. The SurveyUSA poll also revealed that 87 percent of voters support an extreme risk protection order (ERPO) law. In April, the house responded by passing bills that would close the private sale loophole and enact an ERPO.

After a SurveyUSA poll found that 71 percent of **Alabama** voters support requiring people carrying guns in public to obtain a permit and undergo a background check, two Republicans broke party ranks by voting against a dangerous permitless carry bill, SB 4.

Yet some state elected officials are ignoring the will of their constituents in favor of appeasing the gun lobby. Just over a year after the massacre at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, **Florida**, a Quinnipiac University poll found that 57 percent of Florida voters oppose arming teachers. Despite this, legislators approved, and the governor signed, SB 7030, which asks teachers to also play the role of security guard.

While some representatives continue to fail their constituents by refusing to enact lifesaving gun laws, every day many more are courageously defying corporate gun interests in favor of a safer America.

## CALIFORNIA MOVES BILL TO EXPAND GVRO

Shortly after an avowed Christian white supremacist shot four individuals, killing one of them, in a synagogue in Poway, **California**, the state legislature advanced AB 61, which would expand the ability of loved ones and community members to obtain a gun violence restraining order. If enacted, the legislation would allow co-workers, employers, and school personnel to petition a court to temporarily remove guns from dangerous individuals.

## INDIANA WEAKENS GUN LAWS AFTER HOSTING NRA CONVENTION

Less than a week after hosting the NRA convention to drum up fear and gun industry profits, **Indiana** enacted a bill that would expand immunity for people who claim self-defense after shooting someone (HB 1284). The bill would also allow individuals to carry guns on K-12 campuses while attending religious services. The governor signed another bill that repeals a prohibition on selling or transferring assault weapons to minors (SB 119).

# GUN BILLS IN MOTION

## GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION BILL

### BACKGROUND CHECKS

Legislation to strengthen or enact background checks is pending in 19 states.

## GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION BILL

### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

**North Dakota** HB 1393 was enacted on April 30. **Oregon** HB 2013 has a hearing on May 15. At least 18 states have bills pending that would close domestic violence loopholes that allow abusers to access guns.

## GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION BILL

### EXTREME RISK PROTECTION ORDER

**Indiana** HB 1651, which would strengthen existing law, was enacted on May 6. **California** AB 61, which would strengthen existing law, passed the assembly. Extreme risk protection order bills are pending in at least 19 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** HB 2414 passed both chambers. **California** AB 656 passed a committee and has a hearing on May 16. AB 166 also has a hearing on May 16. Currently, nine states have bills pending that would allocate or protect funding for such programs.

## GUN LOBBY BILL

### GUNS IN SCHOOLS

**Montana** HB 325 was vetoed on May 3 and HB 567 was vetoed on May 7. HB 357 was passed on May 2 and will be on the 2020 ballot. **Indiana** HB 1284 was enacted on April 26. **Florida** SB 7030 was enacted on May 8. **Texas** SB 811 passed a house committee. **Pennsylvania** SB 621 passed a committee. Dangerous bills to allow guns in school or on campus are pending in at least 17 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. 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 eight states; to allow guns onto local and state property in seven states; to arm teachers and other civilians in K-12 schools in eight 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 two states; to bring guns onto the campuses of colleges and universities in eight 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](mailto: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: NO SHIRT? NO SERVICE. UNLESS YOU'RE BUYING A GUN IN NORTH DAKOTA.

Representative Ben Koppelman wants to make it a crime for a person to refuse to sell a gun to someone legally allowed to purchase it, even an intoxicated individual. Fortunately, HB 1160 failed to pass the house.

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