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GUN LAW TRENDWATCH

A roundup and analysis of the latest state firearms legislation.

POSITIVE TRENDS

Last week, a long-anticipated bill was introduced in the Oregon Senate that would close the biggest loophole in our nation's gun laws. Senate Bill 941 requires background checks for unlicensed firearms sales and is expected to move quickly—a hearing on the bill is already scheduled for April 2. **If SB 941 is made law, Oregon will join 18 other states that require a background check at some point prior to a private sale.**

On March 20, West Virginia Governor Earl Ray Tomblin vetoed a bill that would have allowed individuals to carry concealed firearms in public without a permit. In his veto statement, Governor Tomblin cited his concern for the safety of law enforcement officers. Similar bills have failed in Mississippi, Utah, and Virginia (see below for information about where similar measures are still pending).

Domestic violence bills that would restrict access to firearms by abusers are currently pending in 20 states. Former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords recently met with legislators and the governors of New Jersey and Connecticut to discuss the importance of bills pending in those states to help remove firearms from the dangerous hands of domestic abusers.

ISSUES AND BILLS

CONCEALED CARRY (NO PERMIT)

CO S 32, GA H 543, ID H 89, IN H 1144, KS S 45, ME S 245, MN S 684, MS H 1272, MT H 298, MT H 533, NH H 582, NH S 116, OK H 1264, OK H 1325, OK S 363, PA H 230, SC S 105, SC H 3716, SD H 1108, SD H 1116, TN H 535, TN H 684, TN S 780, TN S 784, TX H 195, TX S 342

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

AL H 47, AZ S 1269, CT S 56, CT H 5069, CT S 650, H 6848, HI H 402, HI H 625, HI H 1199, HI S 462, IL H 265, IL H 3358, IN H 1295, KS H 2206, KY H 8, ME H 413, MD S 530, MO H 492, MO H 418, MO H 646, NV S 175, NY A 249, NY A 373, NY A 5257, NY S 1413, NY S 1461, NY S 1493, OK H 1329, OR S 525, RI H 5119, RI H 5655, RI S 503, RI S 511, RI S 520, SC H 3034, SC S 3, WA S 5381

GUN VIOLENCE RESTRAINING ORDER

IL S 1864, IL H 3160, KS H 2206, KS H 2375, MO H 646, MN H 1361, MN S 1289, NJ A 3370, NY A 4277, TX S 1006, WA S 5727, WA H 1857

PRIVATE SALE BACKGROUND CHECKS

AZ H 2118, AZ HCR 2009, AZ S 1269, AZ H 2601, IA H 77, IL H 1405, IL S 1490, KS S 25, MO H 347, MT D 608, NJ A 1800, NY S 2445, SC H 3033, TX S 258, TX S 259, TX 2190, VT S 31

OTHER BILLS TO WATCH

Guns in Public Buildings: AZ H 2320

Handgun Permit Repeal: IA H 527/S 425

Open Carry: TX S 17

Preemption: NE L 289

Stand Your Ground: AR H 1240, IA H 92, NV S 175

NEGATIVE TRENDS

A handful of state legislatures have adjourned for the year and bills are starting to make their way to governors' desks. In Montana, lawmakers sent HB 298, a bill that would allow concealed firearms to be carried in public without a permit, to Governor Bullock on March 24. Governor Bullock, who has vetoed other gun lobby bills in the past, has 10 days to sign or veto the bill.

Kansas legislators are poised to send a similar measure to Governor Sam Brownback. He will have 10 days to veto the bill once it is officially transmitted to him.

Guns in schools bills are still being introduced and some are actively moving through legislatures. A new bill was introduced in Nevada to allow guns on higher education campuses, and a similar measure in Texas has passed the Senate. A Montana bill that would allow guns on college and university campuses has passed the Senate and is making its way through the House.

BILLS TO WATCH

A Texas bill that was reported on in a previous *Trendwatch* is making its way to the governor's desk. Texas Senate Bill 17, which would allow handguns to be carried openly in public, received considerable media attention after threatening behavior by some pro-gun activists led to installation of panic buttons for legislators. The bill passed the Senate and the House version has passed out of committee and is now headed to the House floor.

Arizona House Bill 2320 would force local government agencies to install metal detectors and hire security staff in order to keep firearms out of public buildings, including government buildings. The bill passed the House and is making its way through committees in the Senate.

ABOUT THE LAW CENTER TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE

Founded in the wake of the July 1, 1993, assault weapon massacre at 101 California Street in San Francisco that left eight dead and six wounded, the Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence is now the premier resource for legal expertise and information regarding state and federal firearms laws. We track and analyze gun laws in all 50 states, file amicus briefs in Second Amendment cases across the country, and work with lawmakers and advocates to craft and promote legislation that will reduce gun violence and save lives. We regularly partner with law firms and nonprofit organizations dedicated to combating the epidemic of gun violence in our country, and we invite you to learn more about our work by visiting our website or connecting with us on social media.