



LAW CENTER TO
PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE

BECAUSE SMART GUN LAWS SAVE LIVES

2015 MID-YEAR REVIEW

GUN LAW TRENDWATCH

A roundup and analysis of the latest state firearms legislation.

Each year, the Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence's legal experts sift through the thousands of bills introduced in all 50 states' legislatures to find the proposed laws that will have an impact—either positive or negative—on gun violence in America. **In 2015 so far, we've tracked, summarized, and conducted analysis on 1160 gun bills, and there are still more to come.**

1160
firearms bills
tracked in 2015

Most state legislative cycles last under six months, and close to 40 state legislatures have already adjourned for the year. This special edition of *Gun Law Trendwatch* rounds up the activity in those states, and gives insight into a few key bills in states whose cycles are still in progress. Inside, you'll learn more about victories—both offensive and defensive—as well as setbacks in areas like:

BACKGROUND CHECKS

CAMPUS CARRY

CONCEALED CARRY (NO PERMIT)

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

GUNS IN K-12 SCHOOLS

GUNS IN PUBLIC

STAND YOUR GROUND

WAITING PERIODS

In addition to tracking legislation and educating the public, Law Center attorneys work closely with state activists and lawmakers, draft bill language, provide pro bono legal analysis, and offer letters and testimony supporting or opposing bills across the country. So far in 2015, our attorneys have worked in 19 states, as well as DC.

At the end of the year, when all 50 state legislative cycles have closed, the Law Center will release an edition of *Trendwatch* that includes a detailed, comprehensive summary of state legislative activity in 2015. The new laws enacted this year will inform our annual *Gun Law State Scorecard*, where we rank the states based on the strength of their gun laws. You can view the 2014 Scorecard at gunlawscorecard.org.

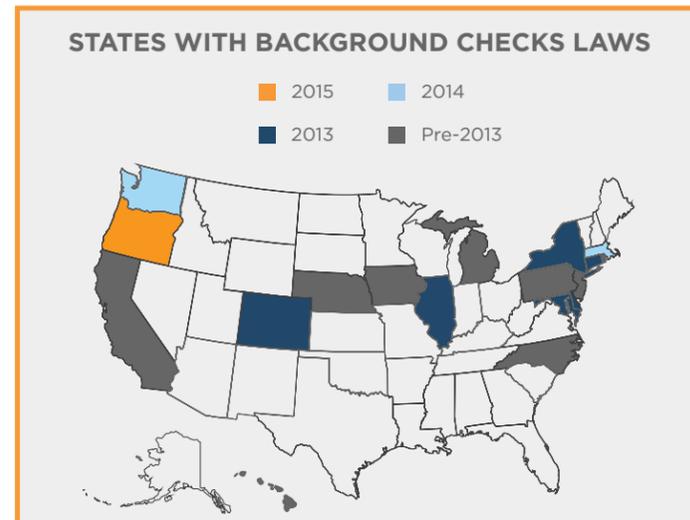
STATE GUN LAW VICTORIES 2015

OFFENSIVE VICTORIES

BACKGROUND CHECKS

Nevada. Nevada law specifically allows unlicensed sellers to request licensed dealers to facilitate firearms sales and conduct background checks. SB 240, enacted this year, prohibits firearms dealers from charging a fee for this service and will encourage more unlicensed sellers to perform background checks and keep guns out of the hands of criminals. In addition, a universal background checks ballot initiative in Nevada has qualified for the 2016 ballot.

Oregon. The most significant development in 2015 so far has been the enactment of SB 941 in Oregon, which closes the private sale loophole. Oregon already required background checks at gun shows, but individuals could buy guns from unlicensed sellers online or in other private sales without undergoing a background check.



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Alabama. HB 47 prohibits domestic violence misdemeanants and the subjects of domestic violence restraining orders from possessing firearms.

Delaware. SB 83 establishes procedures for domestic abusers to relinquish guns and broadens the category of prohibited people.

Louisiana. HB 842 expands domestic violence restraining order parameters and prohibits gun possession by stalkers subject to protective orders.

Maine. HB 413 prohibits domestic abusers convicted of a misdemeanor from possessing firearms.

Nevada. SB 175 prohibits domestic violence misdemeanants from possessing a firearm.

Oregon. SB 525 prohibits domestic violence misdemeanants and the subjects of domestic violence restraining orders from possessing firearms.

South Carolina. SB 3 restricts access to firearms by domestic abusers for varying lengths of time depending on the severity of the crimes committed.

Vermont. SB 141 expands gun possession prohibitions for abusers and improves NICS mental health reporting.

Washington. SB 5381 enacts a process for notifying victims before a gun is returned to a domestic abuser.

18
states have passed
domestic violence
gun laws since 2013

DEFENSIVE VICTORIES

BACKGROUND CHECKS

Iowa. Smart gun laws scored a critical victory when activists and legislators thwarted the gun lobby's efforts to repeal Iowa's permit-to-purchase requirement. The law requires potential handgun buyers to obtain an annual permit and background check, including for purchases from unlicensed sellers. The NRA called the bill to repeal the requirement, HB 527, its "last hope," but the proposal was ultimately defeated.

CAMPUS CARRY

Forcing colleges and universities to allow guns on campus is a dangerous policy the gun lobby devoted tremendous resources to in 2015. **"Campus carry" bills were introduced in 16 states and defeated in 14, dealing a significant blow to the gun lobby's agenda.** Bills are still pending in Ohio, and campus carry passed in only one state, Texas (SB 11). Fortunately, gun violence prevention advocates and safety-minded legislators succeeded in reducing the danger of the new Texas law by giving schools the right to prohibit guns in certain parts of their campuses.

CONCEALED CARRY (NO PERMIT)

A top gun lobby priority in 2015 has been loosening concealed carry laws. **Governors vetoed four bills that would have allowed concealed carry without a permit.** In Montana, Governor Bullock vetoed HB 298 and HB 533, calling the policy "an absurd concept that threatens the safety of our communities." New Hampshire Governor Hassan vetoed SB 116 and West Virginia Governor Tomblin vetoed SB 347. Although some permitless carry bills were enacted into law, **these bills have been defeated in 15 states** thanks to hard work by gun violence prevention advocates.

GUNS IN K-12 SCHOOLS

Gun lobby bills to allow carrying concealed weapons on the grounds of K-12 schools have also been largely unsuccessful in 2015. **Bills permitting guns in K-12 schools have failed in 15 states so far, dealing yet another defeat to the gun lobby.**

LEGISLATION STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION

States with legislatures that adjourn late in the year are working on important gun legislation, most notably California.

The Law Center has been deeply involved in California firearms legislation for decades, helping shepherd many essential bills into law, including last year's influential Gun Violence Restraining Order law, which, in modified forms, was considered by a number of other states in 2015 and is expected to be introduced in future legislative cycles.

Several firearms measures are currently under consideration in California, and will be decided on this year. Chief among these bills are SB 347, which would expand prohibited person categories, and SB 707, which would restrict guns at K-12 schools and college and university campuses. Both bills have passed the Senate and moved to the Assembly for consideration.

GUN LOBBY VICTORIES

Arkansas. HB 1505 allows guns in vehicles in K–12 school parking areas and drop-off zones. HB 1240 removes the duty to retreat before using deadly force in self-defense.

Georgia. HB 492 prohibits school districts from regulating gun possession on school grounds.

Kansas. SB 45 permits individuals to carry loaded, concealed handguns in public without a permit.

Maine. SB 245 allows concealed handguns to be carried in public without a permit.

Michigan. SB 34 removes the limited discretion that was previously granted to the authorities issuing concealed weapons permits.

Mississippi. SB 2394 allows guns to be carried in a fully enclosed purse, bag, or case without a permit.

Nevada. SB 175 allows for the use of deadly force with no duty to retreat to defend a motor vehicle and makes it easier for the NRA and other groups to sue local governments for regulating firearms.

North Dakota. HB 1241 allows guns in public parks and at concerts.

Oklahoma. HB 2014 allows designated K–12 school employees with concealed weapons permits and training to carrying loaded guns at school functions.

Tennessee. HB 995 removes local authority to prohibit guns in parks.

Texas. SB 11 allows concealed carry permit holders to carry firearms on college and university campuses but allows school officials to regulate firearms in some areas of campus. Another new measure, HB 910, allows people with concealed carry permits to carry loaded firearms openly in public.

Wisconsin. SB 35 repeals the state's 48-hour waiting period prior to purchasing a handgun.

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.