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GUN LAW TRENDWATCH

A roundup and analysis of the latest state firearms legislation.

POSITIVE TRENDS

This month gun violence prevention bills have been moving in statehouses across the country. In Hawaii, several bills have passed their houses of origin, including HB 625, which would add stalking misdemeanants and sexual abusers to the list of prohibited firearms purchasers, HB 626, which would prohibit gun possession while intoxicated, and HB 1813, which would prohibit firearm purchase or possession by a person listed in the Federal Terrorist Screening Database.

In Maryland, legislators are moving a bill that would prohibit firearms on the property of a college or university. Hearings have been scheduled for several other bills including a measure that would require long guns to be transferred through a licensed dealer, a bill that would prohibit issuance of a concealed carry permit to a person on the terror watchlist, and legislation to require domestic violence victim notification when a firearm is returned to an abuser.

A bill moving in Connecticut, HB 5054, would require abusers to surrender firearms within 24 hours after receiving notice of a restraining order, and prohibit the subject of an ex parte restraining order from obtaining a CCW permit or handgun eligibility certificate.

ISSUES AND BILLS

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

AZ S 1128, CT H 5054, FL H 101, FL H 925, FL H 1167, FL S 1410, FL S 1476, GA S 250, GA S 257, GA S 260, HI H 402, HI H 625, HI S 462, KS H 2206, NJ S 2786, NY A 249, NY A 373, NY A 5257, NY S 1461, NY S 1493, OH H 392, OK H 1329, SC H 3034, VA H 658, VA 934, VA H 1106, VA S 49, VA S 96, VA S 323, VA S 546, VT H 567, WI A 473, WI S 351

GUNS ON CAMPUS

AL H 12, AZ H 2072, FL H 4001, FL S 68, GA H 544, GA H 859, IN H 1055, KY H 221, MI H 5200, MO H 1899, MO H 1910, MO S 589, NH H 1314, OH H 48, OK H 1143, OK H 1265, OK H 2266, OK S 100, OK S 461, OK S 557, OK S 718, SC S 88, TN H 320, TN H 535, TN S 780, VA H 79, VA H 761, WI A 480, WI S 363, WI H 2446

GUN VIOLENCE PROTECTIVE ORDER

IL H 3160, IL S 1864, KS H 2206, KS H 2375, MI H 4942, MN H 1361, MN S 1289, MO H 1595, NJ A 3370, NY A 4277, NY A 7038, NY S 4389, NY S 6065, PA H 1030, VA H 1025, WA H 1857, WA H 2461, WA S 5727, WA S 6352, WI A 395, WI S 299

PRIVATE SALE BACKGROUND CHECKS

AZ H 2091, AZ HCR 2007, FL S 370, IA H 77, IL H 1405, S 1490, KS S 25, MI H 4590, S 478, MO H 1596, NJ S 804, NM H 51, NY S 2445, OH H 78, PA H 1010, PA S 777, PA S 1049, SC H 3033, VA H 482, VA H 599, VA H 632, VA H 980, VA H 1000, VA S 187, VA S 220, VT H 250, VT S 31, WI A 247, WI S 159

NEGATIVE TRENDS

A dangerous bill has been enacted in West Virginia after the legislature overrode Governor Tomblin's veto. House bill 4145 allows individuals over 21 to carry a concealed gun in public without a permit. It also allows those between 18 and 21 to carry a concealed gun with a permit. After the legislature overrode his veto, Governor Tomblin stated, "It's unfortunate that the concerns of officers from every law enforcement branch in the state, including the West Virginia State Police and university campus police officers, have been ignored by today's action." **West Virginia joins Alaska, Arizona, Kansas, Maine, Vermont and Wyoming in allowing concealed carry without a permit.** Mississippi also allows permitless carry but only if the firearm is carried in a purse or bag. Permitless carry bills are moving in Missouri, Mississippi, New Hampshire and Oklahoma.

In Georgia, HB 859 has passed both chambers and is heading to the governor. The measure allows individuals 21 or older with a CCW permit to carry a loaded gun anywhere on a public campus (except for at athletic events) as well as inside dormitories, fraternities, and sorority houses. The bill was strongly opposed by students and school administrators. The chancellor for the University System of Georgia, presidents and campus police chiefs of numerous universities and, according to a survey, the majority of students, all oppose allowing firearms on campus. Bills to allow guns on campus are moving in Arizona and Alaska.

BILLS TO WATCH

On March 3, Missouri SB 1037 was heard in the Senate Public Safety Committee. **If enacted, Missouri would become the first state to enact a new stand your ground law in five years.** Senate bill 1037 would eliminate the duty to safely retreat before using deadly force when a person is in a place he or she has a right to be. The measure would also impose a tremendous impediment to obtaining a conviction against a shooter who claims that the victim unlawfully entered his or her occupied residence or vehicle. In such a case, the prosecution would be required to prove, beyond a reasonable doubt, that the shooter did not reasonably fear imminent harm. No vote was taken at the hearing on the bill. A recent study conducted by researchers at Texas A & M shows that states with stand your ground laws experience increased homicide rates at around 8%.

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.