

The following is my testimony against HB 4147 for the Public Hearing 2/4/16:

HB 4147 should not come out of committee because it drastically increases the delay time that many citizens would incur when trying to purchase a firearm. There is no guarantee that the State Police will be able to quickly process a request for qualification to receive a firearm. Many law abiding citizens could lose their right to a timely purchase of a firearm if this bill were to pass. According to Oregonian/Oregon Live reporter, Dennis Theriault, who reported data from the State Police, in 2015 more than 8000 citizens were delayed from purchase while about 400 people were denied the right to purchase a firearm.

Currently, under state law, if the State Police cannot decide within 3 days whether the purchaser qualifies to purchase a handgun, the dealer may go ahead and transfer the handgun to the purchaser. The rights of legal purchasers should not be lost because the State Police is not able to quickly determine whether a purchaser passes or doesn't pass a criminal records evaluation. The burden should be on the state police, not the legal purchaser.

Another problem with this bill is the difficulty of transferring a firearm from civilian to civilian. The process has to go through a dealer. It is expensive and time consuming.

There is high incidence of theft of firearms. If somebody with a police record is denied purchasing power it is easy to go to the black market and acquire a weapon. Our legislature needs to decrease bureaucratic restrictions on lawful citizens and reject this measure which is a poor proposal to amend our current law.

Helen Scott
346 Bickford Dr.
Grants Pass. OR 97527