

To: Oregon House Committee on Judiciary
From: Greg Terhune, concerned citizen and NRA certified firearm instructor
Ref: HB 4147, short session 2016

This testimony is in opposition to HB 4147.

I have read the proposed change that HB 4147 would make to the Oregon Revised Statutes. What I see is an attempt to further infringe on the peoples' rights--protected and guaranteed in both the US and Oregon Constitutions--as a substitute for fixing a flawed system of bureaucratic red tape.

Over the years, I have taught many people in the safe and effective use of firearms. Most of these people have come to the understanding that, ultimately, they are responsible for their own safety and the safety of their loved ones.

Many people come to my classes without a firearm of their own, because they aren't sure what they need to purchase. After careful instruction about comfort and fit, they are ready to make a purchase. Imagine their surprise, if after paying for my class and possibly the necessary fees for acquiring their Oregon Concealed Handgun License, they are denied a purchase because the Oregon State Police ID unit, for whatever reason, fails to approve their purchase, with no indication as to why or when (if ever) the approval will come through!

Every year, thousands of law-abiding Oregonians are victims of a system that makes them wait to finalize a firearm purchase because the OSP ID unit does not come through with a timely approval. The only protection these people have is the deadline imposed on the OSP ID unit to issue an approval or denial. HB 4147 removes this protection and places no requirement on the OSP ID unit to EVER issue an approval or denial. Further more, the current system places the burden of proof (and associated costs) on the citizens to overcome the barriers placed before them by the state bureaucracy.

There is currently no accountability on the part of the OSP to the people of this state (whom they are sworn to serve) when it comes to this broken system. HB 4147 does nothing but exacerbate this situation.

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"Remember, when seconds count, the police are just minutes away."

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