

The gun free zone I find particularly troubling for when it comes to schools.

First there is nothing that requires schools to have a "no guns" sign, so I can't know which schools have passed these rules and which haven't, since the law only gives them the option of declaring themselves a gun free zone. Second the property aspect makes no exemption for people traveling in commercial vehicles or public transit through an unknown self declared school gun free zone. The North-South Portland street car cuts through Portland state. PSU also cuts the city in half for around 8 blocks, so traveling through those streets would be a class C felony the way I am reading the law. The gun free zone is bad enough, but there is a gotcha aspect to this proposed rule change that is particularly egregious. Compared this to the current court house gun free zone rule, where is very obvious you can't bring a gun in, and almost impossible to violate the law since there is security and metal detectors that prevent you from violating the law in the first place.

I would hope the legislature makes proper amendments to SB-978 so that it doesn't not entrap tax paying, law abiding citizens and turn them into felons for unknowingly violating gun free zones that are impossible to differentiate between. This bill lays the groundwork for harming good people on pure technicalities instead of targeting criminals.

*Bunny Keane
Portland, Oregon
4/4/19*