

THOUGHTS ON HB 4005

What I liked:

Section 3 is the heart of the bill and is pretty well written. If that was where the bill stopped, I think it would have wide support even among gun owners, many of whom essentially comply with it now.

What I think has to change:

Section 7 will be a nightmare. A far better solution would be to specify trigger or cable locks of commercial manufacture or provided with the gun by the manufacturer. As written this section could result in making thousands of devices currently being used obsolete. Containers present another challenge since many home built containers are as secure as commercial gun safes.

Section 5. While reporting a stolen firearm to police is reasonable (and probably required for an insurance claim) it has limited utility in preventing a crime using a stolen firearm. As written Section 5 can make the victim of a theft face a bigger penalty than the person who stole the firearm. Also, the report should require including the serial number if one is known.

What I think needs more work:

Section 6 is confusing and especially when read with Section 2(9)(b)(A) “. . . other than a minor.”

Section 4 requiring a trigger or cable lock during transfer seems to create a strange situation where a gun in the control of an authorized person being handed to another authorized person has to have a lock during the transfer, but not before or after.

The various references to who is responsible for two years after a violation appears to be problematic from an enforcement perspective.