

HB2543 is another stroke of the 'death by a thousand cuts' effort against the second amendment and owners of firearms. Ultimately, the goal is the end of private ownership of firearms, especially for those least likely to misuse a firearm. This bill does nothing to address the criminal element. There are numerous laws and regulations prohibiting violent behavior with any sort of weapon. A sincere review of ORS 166 bears this out.

Second, this is one of six (6!) anti-gun bills being introduced in this session. No research exists to prove that anti-gun legislation reduces gun violence. Again, as has been stated countless times, the areas with the strongest laws are the ones with the highest rates of gun violence.

Specific to the text of this bill:

Summary: Prohibits transfer of firearm by gun dealer or private party if Department of State Police is unable to determine whether recipient is qualified to receive firearm.

P2 lines 23-24: The dealer may not transfer the firearm unless the dealer receives a unique approval number from the department.

P5 lines 12-15: (B) Receives notification that the transferee is prohibited by state or federal law from possessing or receiving the firearm, or that the department is unable to determine if the transferee is qualified or disqualified from completing the transfer, the gun dealer shall notify the transferor and neither the transferor nor the gun dealer shall transfer the firearm to the transferee

This is wrong. It's the same as someone saying "Guilty, whether the department can prove you are qualified or not. This is an attempt to close a false "Loop hole". Further, the use of the phrase "closing the loop hole" is a way of characterizing a right, either natural or constitutional, as something that should be limited or denied. The concept of self defense is a natural right regardless if its codified in a constitution or not. There's nothing constitutional about leaving an Oregonian defenseless just because the State Police can't produce a determination for a background check.

Sadly, as bad legislation leaves more and more Oregonians unable to defend themselves and puts their lives at risk we come to the conclusion that the cumulative effect of gun laws is quite the opposite of 'safety'. Do not pass this out of committee. Kill this bill. Show that you truly have the happy independence and freedom of Oregonians at heart.