

Submitter: Jackie Bernhardt
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3075

Dear Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 3075. As a low-income woman with a disabled husband, I am deeply concerned about the bill's potential to infringe upon my constitutional right to self-defense and the undue burdens it would impose on individuals in situations similar to mine

HB 3075 proposes increasing the maximum fees for initial firearm permit applications and renewals. For individuals like myself, living on limited incomes, these heightened fees present a significant financial obstacle to exercising our Second Amendment rights. The bill also mandates completion of a firearm safety course, which often involves additional costs and time commitments that are challenging for low-income families to meet.

Accessibility Challenges:

The requirement for in-person firearm safety courses poses logistical challenges, especially for those residing in rural areas or those with limited mobility due to disability. Accessing these courses may necessitate long-distance travel and time away from caregiving responsibilities, further exacerbating the difficulties faced by individuals in my situation.

Extending the permit processing period from 30 to 60 days could leave applicants vulnerable during the waiting period, particularly those in high-crime areas or with immediate self-defense needs. This delay disproportionately affects individuals who cannot afford alternative means of protection or security measures.

While the bill exempts certain personal information from public disclosure, the collection and storage of sensitive data during the application process raise concerns about potential misuse or unauthorized access, which could compromise the safety and privacy of applicants.

In conclusion, HB 3075 imposes financial, logistical, and procedural barriers that disproportionately impact low-income individuals and families with disabilities. These challenges effectively infringe upon our constitutional right to self-defense. I urge you to consider the unintended consequences of this bill on vulnerable populations and vote against its passage.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,
Jackie Bernhardt