

Submitter: Dennis Beechie
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3075

I am writing to urge you to **vote NO on House Bill 3075 (HB 3075)** due to **its potential for discriminatory enforcement, disproportionate impacts on marginalized communities, and serious constitutional concerns**. While I fully support efforts to improve public safety, **this bill risks furthering systemic inequities** and creating **barriers to the rights of law-abiding Oregonians, particularly people of color and lower-income individuals**.

1. HB 3075 Could Enable Racial and Economic Discrimination in Firearm Permitting

* The bill **gives law enforcement broad discretion** to determine who is “likely to be a danger to themselves or others” when deciding whether to approve a firearm purchase permit.

* Studies show that **discretionary gun permitting systems disproportionately impact Black, Latino, and lower-income applicants**, even when they meet all legal requirements.

* In states with similar laws, **marginalized communities have been denied permits at higher rates** than white applicants, despite having no disqualifying records.

* **Without proper safeguards**, HB 3075 risks replicating this pattern of racial and socioeconomic bias, reinforcing systemic inequities in law enforcement decision-making.

2. HB 3075 Imposes Financial Barriers That Disproportionately Harm Low-Income Oregonians

* The bill **increases permit fees to \$150 for an initial permit and \$110 for renewal**, in addition to background check and mandatory training costs.

* These fees are **a direct financial barrier to constitutional rights**, much like the **poll taxes that were historically used to suppress voting rights**.

* **Wealthier individuals will still have access to firearms, while lower-income residents—especially those in historically marginalized communities—will be effectively priced out.**

* Progressive policies should **not** reinforce economic inequality in access to constitutional rights.

3. Retroactive Punishment Violates the U.S. and Oregon Constitutions

* HB 3075 **criminalizes the possession of large-capacity magazines (LCMs) that were legally purchased between December 8, 2022, and the bill's passage**.

* The **U.S. Constitution (Article I, Section 10) and the Oregon Constitution (Article I, Section 21)** both **prohibit retroactive punishment**, meaning that individuals who followed the law at the time of purchase could suddenly be made criminals.

* **This is fundamentally unfair** and risks being struck down in court.

4. HB 3075 Will Lead to Costly Legal Challenges and Wasted Taxpayer Dollars

* **If challenged in court, HB 3075 is likely to be overturned**, requiring the state to **waste taxpayer money defending an unconstitutional law**.

* The courts have already struck down similar laws that retroactively criminalized previously legal firearm ownership.

* Instead of passing legislation that invites litigation, we should **focus on policies that actually improve public safety without reinforcing systemic inequities**.

Call to Action: Vote NO on HB 3075

I strongly urge you to **vote NO on HB 3075**. Instead of passing **a discriminatory, unconstitutional law that will be challenged in court**, let's focus on policies that actually promote **equity and public safety** without punishing marginalized communities.

I would appreciate hearing your position on this bill and whether you will stand against **legislation that risks deepening racial and economic disparities in Oregon**. Please let me know where you stand on this issue—I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Dennis Beechie