

Submitter: Sam Clement

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4145

HB 4145 is premature and misguided. Measure 114 is still tied up in court, has never been implemented, and has already raised serious constitutional and practical concerns. Instead of stepping back and reassessing, this bill attempts to double down on a system that has not been proven workable or lawful.

This legislation expands a permit-to-purchase scheme that places government approval between law-abiding citizens and a constitutional right. Rights should not depend on permission, processing times, or fees. HB 4145 makes that problem worse by extending delays and increasing costs—burdens that fall hardest on working-class Oregonians, rural residents, and people who may need a firearm for personal protection.

Law enforcement agencies have repeatedly stated they lack the staffing, funding, and infrastructure to administer this system. Extending deadlines does not fix that—it simply shifts the burden onto citizens while the system remains unworkable.

HB 4145 also creates special exemptions for government and law-enforcement classes, reinforcing a two-tiered system of rights. Constitutional rights should apply equally to everyone, not based on occupation.

Finally, there is no credible evidence that permit-to-purchase laws reduce violent crime. Criminals do not follow permit laws. This bill risks diverting limited public-safety resources away from addressing violent offenders and toward regulating people who are already obeying the law.

For these reasons, I urge you to reject HB 4145 and focus instead on enforcing existing laws and addressing real public-safety concerns.