

Submitter:

Mark Forton

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4145

I respectfully submit this testimony in opposition to HB 4145.

HB 4145 will have a disproportionate and harmful impact on families, LGBTQ+ individuals, and minority communities, who already face higher rates of harassment, hate crimes, and violence. Many people in these communities seek lawful firearm ownership for personal safety, particularly when facing credible threats, domestic violence, or long law enforcement response times. This bill creates additional delays, higher costs, and unnecessary bureaucracy that may leave vulnerable individuals unprotected when they need safety the most.

By extending the permit processing timeline from 30 to 60 days, increasing fees, and adding new eligibility restrictions, HB 4145 places significant barriers on law-abiding citizens while doing little to prevent criminals from obtaining firearms. Criminals do not follow permitting laws. Instead, these policies burden responsible people and families simply trying to protect themselves and their loved ones.

Raising fees also creates economic discrimination, turning a constitutional right into a privilege for those who can afford it. Working families, seniors, and marginalized communities already struggling with housing, healthcare, and inflation will now face additional financial obstacles just to exercise their right to self-defense.

Additionally, the expansion of data collection and retention raises serious privacy concerns, especially for LGBTQ+ individuals and minorities who may fear harassment, profiling, or misuse of personal information. Creating centralized databases of lawful firearm owners introduces significant civil liberties risks without clear public safety benefit.

There is no credible evidence that longer waiting periods, higher fees, or expanded permitting bureaucracy meaningfully reduce violent crime. Real public safety improvements come from targeting repeat violent offenders, strengthening domestic violence prevention, expanding mental health services, and investing in community-based violence intervention.

HB 4145 expands red tape, increases inequality, and weakens civil liberties, while offering little measurable benefit to public safety. For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to vote NO on HB 4145.