

Submitter:

Noah Forest

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4145

I am testifying today in strong opposition to House Bill 4145, which seeks to modify and implement the flawed provisions of Ballot Measure 114 (2022). While proponents may frame this as a "fix" to address legal challenges, HB 4145 doubles down on unconstitutional gun control that infringes on our Second Amendment rights, creates unequal privileges under the law, burdens low-income Oregonians, and circumvents ongoing judicial scrutiny. This bill should be rejected outright, as it perpetuates a failed policy that does nothing to enhance public safety while eroding the freedoms of responsible citizens.

First, let's recall what Ballot Measure 114 entails: a permit-to-purchase system requiring background checks, safety training, and fees for acquiring firearms, along with a ban on magazines holding more than 10 rounds. Voters narrowly approved it in 2022 with just 50.1% support, amid heavy out-of-state funding from gun control groups. Since then, it has been rightfully enjoined by courts due to constitutional violations, with cases like *Eyre v. Rosenblum* still pending in the 9th Circuit. HB 4145 doesn't repeal this mess; instead, it tweaks it to evade justice, delaying the permit requirement for transfers until January 1, 2028, while forcing all legal challenges into Marion County Circuit Court. This is a blatant attempt to circumvent the judiciary and impose restrictions voters didn't fully endorse—especially since the bill adds elements not in the original measure, like expanded fees and timelines.

One of the most egregious aspects is the extension of the permit issuance timeline from 30 to 60 days. This means law-abiding Oregonians could wait two months just to exercise a fundamental right, turning a constitutional guarantee into a bureaucratic nightmare. Imagine needing government approval for months to buy a tool for self-defense in a state where crime rates in cities like Portland continue to rise. This delay doesn't stop criminals—who ignore laws anyway—but it disarms victims, particularly women and the elderly who may need protection urgently.

Moreover, HB 4145 hikes fees dramatically: the initial permit application jumps from \$65 to \$150, with \$50 going to the Oregon State Police for background checks, and renewals increase to \$75. These costs disproportionately burden low-income families, many of whom live in high-crime areas and rely on affordable firearms for safety. Democrats often champion equity, yet this bill creates a paywall for self-defense, making rights accessible only to the affluent. It's regressive taxation disguised as public safety, and it won't reduce violence, studies show permit systems like this have negligible impact on crime.

The bill's exemptions for active and retired law enforcement officers are particularly offensive. Why should retired probation officers or off-duty police have access to standard-capacity magazines that the rest of us are denied? Proponents of Measure 114 called these "weapons of war" with no place in society, yet HB 4145 carves out

privileges for a select class. This violates Article I, Section 20 of the Oregon Constitution, which prohibits laws granting privileges to any class of citizens not equally available to all. It's elitist hypocrisy: rules for thee, but not for me. If these magazines are so dangerous, why exempt anyone? This two-tiered system erodes trust in government and treats ordinary Oregonians as second-class citizens. In conclusion, HB 4145 is an unconstitutional overreach that weakens our rights, favors elites, and ignores root causes of crime. Instead of fixing a broken measure, repeal it entirely. Respect the courts, the Constitution, and the people. I urge you to vote NO on HB 4145.