

I am writing in support of HB 4145 and to respond to claims made in opposition by the NRA-ILA.

The NRA-ILA asserts that HB 4145 “overrides the will of the voters” and allows the Legislature to impose “draconian gun control on law-abiding gun owners.” This characterization is inaccurate and fails to acknowledge both the intent of Ballot Measure 114 and the practical challenges of implementing a new statewide permitting system.

Oregonians voted in 2022 to require a permit to purchase firearms and to regulate large-capacity magazines. HB 4145 does not undo that decision. Instead, it makes targeted, necessary adjustments to ensure Measure 114 can be implemented in a way that is lawful, fair, and workable across the state.

One criticism raised by the NRA-ILA is the extension of the permit issuance timeline from 30 days to 60 days. Measure 114 created an entirely new permitting framework without sufficient infrastructure, staffing, or funding to support it. HB 4145 acknowledges this reality by providing permit agents with a reasonable amount of time to complete background checks and issue decisions. This protects applicants’ due process rights and reduces the risk of inconsistent or rushed determinations. A realistic timeline is not punitive; it is essential to responsible administration.

The NRA-ILA also claims that the increase in permit fees is intended to make lawful gun ownership financially unobtainable. In reality, the fee adjustments reflect the actual costs of administering the permitting process, including criminal background checks conducted by the Oregon State Police. HB 4145 also specifies how fees are allocated and expands the options for meeting firearm safety training requirements, which increases flexibility for applicants rather than restricting access.

Opponents further object to exemptions for certain active and retired law enforcement officers. While reasonable people may disagree about these exemptions, similar provisions already exist in Oregon law and are not central to the core requirements approved by voters. Their inclusion does not invalidate the overall intent of Measure 114.

The delayed enforcement of the permit requirement until January 1, 2028 has been portrayed as evidence that the state is unprepared. In fact, this delay reflects a responsible approach to implementation. Enforcing a permitting mandate before a functional, uniform system is in place would lead to confusion, uneven application across jurisdictions, and increased legal challenges. Allowing time to build the system helps ensure the law is applied fairly statewide.

Finally, HB 4145 strengthens privacy protections by exempting sensitive permit and background check information from public disclosure. This is an important safeguard for lawful gun owners and directly contradicts claims that the bill disregards their rights.

HB 4145 does not impose new restrictions beyond what voters approved. It clarifies and stabilizes Measure 114 so it can be implemented as intended, while respecting public safety, due process, and the will of Oregon voters. For these reasons, HB 4145 deserves support.