

Submitter: Hank Keehner
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4145

Chair and Members of the Committee,

I submit this testimony in opposition to HB 4145.

HB 4145 expands and modifies Ballot Measure 114 in ways that raise significant legal, administrative, and equity concerns without demonstrating a measurable public-safety benefit.

The bill broadens discretionary authority for permit agents to deny permits based on subjective assessments of an applicant's mental or psychological state or perceived future risk. These standards are not clearly defined, are difficult to apply consistently across jurisdictions, and increase the likelihood of arbitrary or uneven outcomes.

HB 4145 also substantially increases permit fees, allowing charges of up to \$150 for initial applications and \$110 for renewals. These costs operate as a financial barrier to the exercise of a constitutional right, particularly for lower-income residents, without evidence that higher fees reduce criminal misuse of firearms.

The extension of processing timelines from 30 to 60 days, combined with mandatory denial when background checks are incomplete due to missing records, shifts administrative shortcomings onto lawful applicants. This creates avoidable delays and denials unrelated to applicant behavior.

The bill further establishes and maintains a centralized database of permit holders that is exempt from public disclosure. While privacy is cited, the database increases data-security and misuse risks and exceeds what is necessary to conduct background checks already required at the point of transfer.

With respect to large-capacity magazines, HB 4145 continues to rely on affirmative defenses rather than clear statutory exemptions. This structure exposes otherwise law-abiding individuals to arrest and prosecution before legality is resolved, despite ongoing litigation and prior injunctions.

Finally, the bill declares an emergency and restricts venue for legal challenges. These procedural choices limit transparency and constrain judicial review of legislation that significantly affects constitutional rights statewide.

Oregon already prohibits firearm possession by prohibited persons and requires

background checks for commercial sales. HB 4145 adds cost, delay, and discretion to lawful ownership without clear evidence that these changes will reduce violent crime.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee not to advance HB 4145 in its current form.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter,
Hank Keehner