

Submitter: ANDREW HALL  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4145

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Andrew, and I am a resident of Salem, Oregon. I strongly oppose House Bill 4145, which modifies and implements provisions of Ballot Measure 114 (2022). I urge you to vote no.

HB 4145 declares an emergency to make the bill effective immediately, yet it delays the permit-to-purchase requirement until January 1, 2028—nearly two years later. This contradiction defeats the purpose of an emergency clause. If no immediate crisis exists, why declare one? The emergency label bypasses the 90-day referendum waiting period, preventing voters from challenging it at the ballot. This is undemocratic and unnecessary given the long delay. It appears designed to rush controversial changes past public scrutiny.

The bill rests on Measure 114, which faces strong constitutional challenges. In state court, a Harney County judge ruled it violates Article I, Section 27 of the Oregon Constitution. Though the Court of Appeals reversed in March 2025, the Oregon Supreme Court heard arguments in November 2025 and is likely to strike it down, given questions about historical analogs and regulatory burdens.

Federally, Measure 114 is under scrutiny post-Bruen (2022), which demands regulations match historical traditions. The 9th Circuit case is paused pending U.S. Supreme Court review of similar bans. Permit-to-purchase and magazine limits have been invalidated elsewhere (e.g., Maryland, Illinois) for lacking historical basis. The U.S. Supreme Court is likely to find these provisions unconstitutional, making HB 4145's changes futile.

Enacting this will waste taxpayer money on doomed litigation. Oregon has already spent millions defending Measure 114; more costs loom. Implementing higher fees (\$65 to \$150), longer waits (30 to 60 days), and bureaucracy burdens law enforcement without benefit. Funds would be better spent on mental health or policing.

Most importantly, HB 4145 makes Oregonians less safe. It restricts law-abiding citizens' access to firearms and effective magazines for self-defense, while criminals ignore such laws. Studies (CDC, RAND) show permit-to-purchase laws have mixed or negligible crime-reduction effects, and magazine bans do little against mass shootings (reloads or multiple guns suffice). These restrictions disarm vulnerable groups like women and seniors in a state with rising urban crime. We need policies that empower citizens, not hinder them.

Exemptions for law enforcement expose the hypocrisy: if large magazines are dangerous, why allow retired officers to keep them? This creates unequal rights. HB 4145 falsely declares an emergency while delaying action, relies on a likely unconstitutional measure, wastes funds, and endangers public safety by infringing

self-defense rights. Please uphold our constitution and vote no.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Andrew

Salem, Oregon Resident