

Submitter:

Eric Bennett

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4145

STOP TRYING TO TAKE AWAY OREGONIANS RIGHTS!

1. Creates a de facto firearm registry

HB 4145 requires the Oregon State Police to maintain an electronic searchable database of all permits issued, including renewals and revocations. Even if labeled “confidential,” this is functionally a registry of lawful gun owners—something long opposed across the political spectrum due to abuse and breach risks ?.

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2. Expands subjective denial standards

The bill allows permit agents to deny applicants based on a belief that a person “may be reasonably likely to be a danger” due to mental or psychological state or past behavior—without a conviction or adjudication. This vague standard invites inconsistent enforcement and arbitrary denials based on opinion rather than due process ?.

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3. Punishes applicants for government record failures

If the state cannot complete a background check due to missing or incomplete records, the applicant is automatically disqualified—even when the issue is not the applicant’s fault. The burden is shifted entirely onto citizens to fix government database problems ?.

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4. Doubles wait times for a constitutional right

HB 4145 extends the decision window from 30 to 60 days before a permit must be issued or denied. Delays in exercising a constitutional right are still infringements—especially for individuals seeking firearms for lawful self-defense ?.

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5. Significantly increases financial barriers

Permit fees jump as high as \$150 initially and \$110 for renewals, pricing lower-income Oregonians out of exercising a fundamental right. Constitutional rights should not depend on a person’s ability to pay ?.

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6. Entrenches unequal treatment under the law

The bill provides broad exemptions for active and retired law enforcement while imposing heavier burdens on ordinary citizens. Rights should not depend on one’s current or former government employment status ?.

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7. Chills lawful ownership through fear of reporting

Applicants who are denied are reported to multiple law-enforcement agencies within 24 hours—even when no crime has been committed. This discourages lawful citizens

from applying at all and treats rights-holders as suspects by default ?.

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8. Centralizes legal challenges to favor the state

HB 4145 mandates that challenges to the law be filed in Marion County Circuit Court only, limiting access to justice and stacking the deck against rural and out-of-area plaintiffs ?.

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9. Fails to address criminal misuse

The bill overwhelmingly targets law-abiding applicants with new fees, delays, and subjective standards—while offering no meaningful new tools aimed at criminals who already ignore firearm laws ?.

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10. Builds on a law still under constitutional challenge

HB 4145 attempts to “fix” and entrench Ballot Measure 114 while its core provisions remain controversial and legally unsettled. Doubling down before courts resolve these issues risks further legal chaos and taxpayer expense

The only rational action is to amend HB4145 to a single line that reads,

“Given that Measure 114 is facially unconstitutional based on numerous Supreme Court decisions it is hereby rescinded in all parts”.

Any other course only commits the state of Oregon to years of expense defending the indefensible.

You as legislators, have an obligation to the people of Oregon to be mindful stewards of our tax dollars.

This is your chance to do the right thing and do just that, reject this bill and move on to solving real problems, honest citizens exercising their civil rights are not one of those problems.”

Eric Bennett