

Oral Testimony Opposing HB 4145 — Permit-to-Purchase & Training Issues

Testimony Script for Delivery Before the Oregon House Judiciary Committee

Oral Testimony Opposing HB 4145

Focus: Permit-to-Purchase & Limited Training Requirements

Chair Kropf, Vice-Chair Chotzen and Vice-Chair Wallan, and Members of the Judiciary Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify.

My name is Rick Coufal, I am a retired US Army Colonel and Retired Oregon Law Enforcement and am currently the NRA-ILA FAL for Oregon and I'm here to oppose HB 4145.

HB 4145 attempts to revise the permit-to-purchase system created under Measure 114, but it does not fix the core structural problems that made the original system unworkable. Instead, it doubles down on a framework that is administratively impossible, legally vulnerable, and functionally inaccessible for ordinary Oregonians.

Currently BM114 is still in both State and Federal Court pending resolution of those court cases on constitutionality. Perhaps we should wait for the courts to conclude their cases before we try to reinvent the wheel with more confusing legislation.

1. The Permit-to-Purchase System Is Not Operationally Feasible

HB 4145 requires every firearm purchaser to obtain a permit from a local police chief or sheriff. But the bill provides no statewide application portal, no electronic submission, no automated status updates, and no uniform process across Oregon's 36 counties.

It relies on a patchwork of local agencies—many of which have already testified that they do not have the staff, funding, or infrastructure to run a permit program of this scale.

The bill extends the processing window to 60 days, but it still provides no accountability for delays, no reporting requirements, no readiness benchmarks, no pilot testing, and no statewide implementation coordinator.

This is not a functional system. It is a bottleneck that will deny lawful citizens access to their constitutional rights simply because their county lacks resources.

2. Automatic Denials When Records Are Missing

HB 4145 includes a provision that if the Oregon State Police cannot complete a background check due to missing or incomplete records, the application is automatically denied.

This means Oregonians can be denied a permit not because they are prohibited, but because the state's own databases are incomplete.

There is no administrative appeal, no error-correction process, and no timeline for OSP to fix the problem. The only remedy is to start over.

This is not due process. It is a system designed to fail the very people it regulates.

3. Training Requirements Are Inconsistent and Unstandardized

HB 4145 requires proof of training, but the bill does not create a standardized statewide curriculum, an approved instructor list, uniform documentation standards, or any quality control.

Instead, it allows a wide range of courses—some online, some in person, some law-enforcement-approved, some not—so long as they include certain components.

This creates massive disparities: one county may accept a CHL course, another may reject it; one instructor may require live-fire, another may not.

If the state is going to require training as a condition of exercising a constitutional right, that training must be uniform, accessible, and clearly defined. HB 4145 does none of that.

4. Barriers Without Public Safety Benefits

The permit-to-purchase system in HB 4145 does not address straw purchasing, criminal trafficking, theft, suicide prevention, domestic violence enforcement, or mental health intervention.

Instead, it creates a bureaucratic obstacle course for people who are already following the law. Criminals do not apply for permits, do not take training classes, and do not wait 60 days for approval.

This bill burdens only the people who are already complying with the law.

5. The State Is Not Ready for Implementation

HB 4145 delays the permit requirement until January 1, 2028, which is itself an admission that the system is not ready. But the bill still provides no

funding, no staffing plan, no technology modernization, no statewide coordination, and no implementation roadmap.

If the Legislature wants a permit system to work, it must first build the infrastructure. HB 4145 does the opposite: it mandates the system first and hopes the infrastructure appears later.

Conclusion

HB 4145 does not fix the problems with Measure 114. It recreates them.

It imposes a permit-to-purchase system that local agencies cannot administer, that OSP cannot support, and that ordinary Oregonians cannot navigate. It requires training without standardizing it. It denies applicants based on missing records the state itself controls. And it delays implementation without preparing for it.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to reject HB 4145.

Thank you for your time.