

Submitter:

Jeff Thompson

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4145

- It undermines voter intent and direct democracy — Measure 114 was a citizen-initiated ballot measure. Critics claim HB 4145 lets the legislature override or rewrite parts of what voters approved (or attempted to approve), imposing changes voters never voted on, such as altered timelines or exemptions.

- It imposes stricter, more burdensome requirements on law-abiding citizens — Key objections include:

- Doubling the permit issuance timeline from 30 to 60 days, causing longer delays for lawful purchases.

- Raising the permit fee by over 130% (from \$65 to \$150), seen as a financial barrier designed to discourage or prevent gun ownership.

- Adding bureaucratic hurdles and discretionary authority (e.g., to local agencies or police) in the permitting process, potentially leading to arbitrary denials.

- It creates unequal treatment and special privileges for law enforcement — The bill includes broad exemptions or carve-outs for active, off-duty, retired police officers, probation/parole officers, and similar personnel (e.g., allowing them access to otherwise restricted items like large-capacity magazines or bypassing certain permit rules). Opponents view this as creating a two-tiered system: regular citizens face heavy restrictions while government employees get preferential treatment, which they argue violates equal protection under the law and expands police power over civilians.

- It diverts resources and doesn't target actual threats — Critics contend the changes focus on regulating compliant gun owners rather than violent criminals (who ignore laws anyway). This wastes limited public safety resources on paperwork and enforcement against non-criminals.

- Broader constitutional and practical concerns — Some argue it exacerbates Second Amendment infringements (especially amid ongoing legal challenges to Measure 114 in courts). It may disproportionately affect vulnerable groups through increased barriers to self-defense, and it risks enabling abuse of discretionary permitting powers.