

Submission in opposition to HB4145 2026 Oregon Legislative Session

Richard Thurman

I wish to remind the legislators that your first and foremost function and responsibility is to protect the rights of the citizens of Oregon. You have taken an oath to do this and all other choices should be made with this in mind!!!

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Creates 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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- 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
- 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
- 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
- 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

As a lifelong Oregon resident closing in on 60 years, I am aghast at the continued attempt to minimize if not squander my individual rights as a law-abiding citizen all in an attempt solve issues as a result of social nature and continued failures to directly address those issues. Again, I will remind you that both the Oregon and US constitution strictly limit government’s ability to encroach and deny my individual rights in any attempt to address any other issues. The US Supreme Court has already addressed this and this legislature’s attempt to circumvent these decisions show your disdain for our individual rights.

So in closing it is your responsibility to oppose this legislation!!!

Richard Thurman

Life long resident of Oregon