

Submitter: Richard De Witt
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4145

Operationally Unworkable. The bill mandates that every firearm purchaser obtain a permit from their local police chief or sheriff, but provides no centralized system, electronic portal, or automated tracking. Instead, it relies on Oregon's 36 counties—many already understaffed and underfunded—to independently manage applications with no guarantee of consistency or timely processing. Our law enforcement is already stretched thin. We should not burden them further without providing infrastructure or funding.

Denies Due Process. HB 4145 allows Oregon State Police to deny permits if background checks cannot be completed due to incomplete state records. Applicants are penalized for state database deficiencies with no appeal process, no correction timeline, and no recourse. This is fundamentally unjust.

Inconsistent Standards. The bill requires firearm safety training but establishes no standardized curriculum, instructor registry, or uniform requirements. Some counties may accept online courses; others may not. This creates confusion and unequal access across jurisdictions.

No Public Safety Gains. Most critically, this system does nothing to address the real drivers of gun violence: straw purchasing, criminal trafficking, stolen firearms, domestic violence enforcement, suicide prevention, and mental health intervention. The bill burdens law-abiding citizens already following the law while criminals—who ignore laws by definition—will obtain firearms through illegal channels.

Cost, Delays, and Disparate Treatment. HB 4145 raises the permit fee from \$65 to \$150—more than doubling the cost for law-abiding citizens. It extends issuance timelines from 30 to 60 days, creating lengthy delays in exercising constitutional rights. Meanwhile, the bill exempts retired law enforcement from the 10-round magazine limit, creating a two-tiered system where former officers have access to tools denied to civilians.

Unfunded and Unprepared. The bill delays implementation until 2028, implicitly acknowledging the system is not ready. Yet it provides no funding, staffing plan, centralized infrastructure, or statewide coordination to achieve readiness. Delaying a broken system does not fix it.