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| Submitter: | Peter Krook |
| On Behalf Of: | |
| Committee: | House Committee On Judiciary |
| Measure, Appointment or Topic: | HB4145 |

HB4145 does one thing right: 2028 implementation allows time to get instructors approved and to set up the required classes.
Related issue, the legislature needs to provide assurances that instructors will be approved in a timely manner and that enough will be available early-mid 2027 so there isn't a backlog by Jan 2028. The requirement for an on-site safe handling exam could be problematic for people living far from an approved instructor – people shouldn't have to travel an hour to take a 5 minute test.

There are several “gray” areas in the proposed legislation that I am concerned about because they allow an abuse of process.
The sheriff/chief is allowed significant discretion to deny a permit and there are no penalties if they unreasonably deny permits. Before the change to “must issue” CHL carry permits in 1989, many sheriffs/chiefs would only grant a carry permit to close friends/associates, the well heeled, or the politically powerful. It is important to remember that the misuse of firearms by carry permit holders is exceedingly rare. The approval process can be delayed beyond 60 days for reasons that are vague and almost certainly shouldn't exist in a properly run system if the process is started promptly.

Specific items I hope you would oppose.

People who are opposed to guns in general may say this is about saving lives, and therefore should be an emergency measure, however, this bill and similar, prior bills should not be passed and should be repealed if the real goal is saving lives. The vast majority of murders are caused by criminals who should already be prohibited from owning firearms but who are often allowed back on the streets due to lack of agressive investigations, “no cash bail”, lack of aggressive prosecution for illegal firearms possession or use, lack of prosecution for repeated offenses, etc. This bill makes it much harder for honest citizens to protect themselves from criminals or abusers by requiring the honest citizens to jump several hurdles, be at risk for months until they can legally obtain a firearm, and pay excessive fees to exercise their constitutional right of self defense. The Oregon taskforce on suicide prevention did not recommend gun control measures to prevent suicide – instead they recommended better mental health aids, and we should have PSAs regarding suicide risks and available resources to the depressed and their family/friends.

The fees and potential waiting periods have more than doubled since the last bill for no good reason, so it could easily take 3 or even 4 months to jump all the hurdles. I'm sure all legislators would be screaming if anyone proposed similar restrictions on other constitutional rights.

I believe Federal law prohibits keeping a list of legal gun owners – are you sure this is compliant?. You may state it is secure and no one is allowed to publish the information, but there have been leaks, hacks, etc.

The requirement to start (and probably complete) any legal challenge to this bill in Marion County sounds like an attempt to make it harder for citizens to exercise their rights and to potentially stack the deck rather than to provide good access to the judicial system and a fair hearing. (unless you can prove Marion County judges never get reversed on the state or federal level).

There are unaddressed flaws from BM114 which still need to be fixed. To the best of my knowledge (and I looked), there was never any published method to document ownership of LCMs prior to 12/8/22, so people may be in jeopardy. The language in BM114 says that a legal magazine must NEVER be POTENTIALLY convertible to an illegal LCM. Honest citizens can't predict what some genius can accomplish with the right tools and equipment now or in the future. Suggest “A person has a legal 10 round magazine if it cannot be converted to an LCM without additional parts that are already in the person's possession and without the use of power tools”.