

Institute for Legislative Action

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February 4, 2026

The Honorable Jason Kropf, Chair

House Committee on Judiciary

900 Court Street, NE

Salem, OR 93701

Dear Chair Kropf and Honorable Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

On behalf of the National Rifle Association (NRA) – Institute for Legislative Action and NRA members across the state of Oregon, I respectfully submit this written testimony in opposition to HB 4145.

Ballot Measure 114 is currently being contested in both state and federal courts, and the litigation remains far from settled. While the courts consider the constitutionality of Ballot Measure 114, my comments here are narrowly focused on HB 4145 itself and why this bill represents a substantial departure from what Oregon voters narrowly approved in 2022. HB 4145's regulation "unduly frustrates" the right to bear arms for self-defense.

Ballot Measure 114 passed by less than one percent. HB 4145 goes well beyond that Measure and implements policy changes that voters were never asked to consider and did not approve. This Committee should not assume that judicial decisions addressing Measure 114 automatically apply to a materially different statutory scheme.

Venue Restriction

HB 4145 limits all legal challenges to Marion County Circuit Court. While Oregon law has, in limited circumstances, permitted venue restrictions for voter-approved measures, HB 4145 is not a voter-approved measure. It is new legislation that substantively alters the regulatory framework. Restricting venue for a law that voters never approved is inappropriate and undermines access to the courts.

A Bill Disguised as a "Fix"

HB 4145 is presented as a technical or corrective bill, but in reality, it implements the policy wish list that the Ballot Measure 114 proponents failed to secure voter approval at the ballot box. This bill expands wait times, increases fees, limits judicial review, removes exceptions, and entrenches a permanent registry—changes that go well beyond Measure 114. These changes will not deter crime, but will make it harder, if not impossible, to lawfully exercise the constitutionally protected right to keep and bear arms for the defense of themselves, and the State," under Article 1, Section 24 of the Oregon State Constitution.

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Operational Failures and Administrative Reality

Discovery in Ballot Measure 114 litigation revealed serious operational deficiencies within the Oregon State Police permitting system. Applications and fingerprints must be submitted by mail or courier and are processed manually. Information is entered into a single Excel spreadsheet. The FBI has refused to participate in the permitting system as envisioned by Measure 114, and OSP has acknowledged staffing shortages, lack of funding, and the absence of live-scan fingerprinting. The reality is these systemic failures will only worsen delays and denials for lawful applicants.

The Chicken and the Egg Problem

Beyond the operational failures, time delays and price increases of HB 4145, it may be impossible for a first-time gun owner in Oregon to lawfully obtain a firearm for self-defense. In order to obtain a permit-to-purchase under HB 4145 you must successfully complete the live-fire training portion of the safety course. In order to do so, you must have a firearm to complete this portion. However, you must first obtain a permit to purchase a firearm. There lies the issue, to get a permit you need a firearm, but you can't lawfully purchase a firearm without first obtaining a permit.

Public Records and Data Security

HB 4145 fails to meaningfully protect sensitive personal information. While permit applications may be exempt from public records requests under this bill, the bill creates a government-maintained registry of firearms and firearm owners without providing any remedy for individuals whose information is leaked or misused. Similar breaches have already occurred in other states, including the public release of sensitive permit-holder personal data and fingerprints in California. Oregon gun owners deserve stronger protections and accountability.

Doubling the Permit-to-Purchase Wait Time

Voters approved a permit-to-purchase system with a maximum 30-day decision period. HB 4145 doubles that period to 60 days. This change alone is significant. It will create lengthy delays for law-abiding citizens who have completed required training, paid fees, and passed background checks. Courts reviewing Measure 114 evaluated a 30-day period, not a 60-day one. Judicial approval of the former does not automatically extend to the latter.

Excessive Fee Increases

Measure 114 capped the permit fee at \$65. HB 4145 raises the initial fee to \$150, with an additional \$110 renewal fee every five years—an increase of more than 130 percent. Background checks cost approximately \$48. The bill provides no explanation for how the remaining funds from the increase will be used. These excessive fees function as a financial barrier to the exercise of a constitutional right and were never approved by the voters.

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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Law Enforcement Carve-Outs and Removed Exceptions

Voters did not approve permitting carve-outs for law enforcement, nor did they approve the elimination of existing exceptions for certain lawful transfers and firearms. HB 4145 removes these exceptions entirely, further demonstrating that the bill is not the same regime voters considered in 2022.

On behalf of Oregon NRA members who live and work in every one of your districts, I urge you to oppose HB 4145. At a minimum, the Legislature should pause and allow the ongoing litigation to conclude before imposing sweeping and irreversible changes that burden the rights of law-abiding Oregonians.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "A. Cline".

Aoibheann

Aoibheann Cline, Esq.
State Director