

Submitter: Jon Hansen
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4145

Chair Wagner, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Rules Committee:

I submit this written testimony in strong opposition to HB 4145 and urge the committee to block, amend heavily, or allow the bill to die without advancement. This measure modifies Ballot Measure 114's firearm permit provisions in ways that add unnecessary burdens on law-abiding Oregonians, while the original measure remains under ongoing court challenges for constitutionality.

More critically, the bill's path through the House was tainted by multiple serious rule and procedure violations that undermine legislative integrity, transparency, and public trust:

Improper mid-vote recess and suspension of proceedings: During the February 16 House Judiciary work session, Chair Rep. Jason Kropf audibly sighed after Rep. Th?y Tr?n voted "no" on advancing an amendment/motion. He then called a recess ("stand at ease") during the active roll call—improperly halting formal committee proceedings mid-vote, contrary to norms requiring open, uninterrupted deliberation. **Private off-the-record hallway discussion:** Kropf left the hearing room, and Rep. Tr?n followed for a 10-20 minute private conversation outside public view. Upon return, she changed her vote to "yes," resulting in narrow 5-4 advancement. This off-record negotiation during an active vote creates the strong appearance of undue influence or coercion, violating principles of impartial chairing and open process.

Alleged violation of Legislative Branch Rule 27: A formal complaint was filed the same day by witness Derek LeBlanc, alleging verbal abuse, intimidation, threats, and creation of a "hostile working environment" to sway the vote—directly prohibited under Rule 27 (harassment, discrimination, retaliation in legislative activities). Rep. Tr?n later referenced a "hostile working environment" and confusion in the democratic process.

Inadequate response and lack of transparency: House Republicans paused floor proceedings in protest over the failure to conduct a full, transparent investigation by the Legislative Equity Office. Chair Kropf's subsequent resignation from the House Committee on Conduct further highlights avoidance of accountability.

These events erode democratic standards: votes should reflect free conscience in open session, not private pressure from a chair/sponsor. Advancing HB 4145 despite these violations sets a dangerous precedent for future legislation.

Additionally, the bill itself imposes excessive hurdles—tripling permit fees (\$150 initial/\$110 renewal), doubling processing to 60 days, delaying transfers to 2028—without evidence it reduces illegal gun violence or suicide (RAND studies show inconclusive/limited impact from such permit/background check laws on criminal

homicides or overall suicide rates).

I respectfully request the Senate Rules Committee exercise its authority to halt this flawed process and let HB 4145 die. Oregonians deserve transparent, ethical lawmaking that respects rights and legal challenges to Measure 114.

Thank you for your consideration and for upholding proper procedure.

Sincerely,

Jon Hansen