

Submitter: Bryson Baker
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4145

I strongly oppose House Bill 4145 and urge the committee to reject it. This legislation modifies voter-approved Ballot Measure 114 (2022) in ways that undermine Second Amendment rights, disregard the will of Oregon voters, impose undue burdens on law-abiding citizens, and create unequal treatment under the law.

First, HB 4145 overrides key provisions voters narrowly approved in Measure 114. Voters set a 30-day maximum for permit processing and a \$65 cap on fees—explicit limits intended to prevent government overreach and ensure accessibility. This bill doubles the processing time to 60 days and more than doubles initial fees to \$150 (with renewals up to \$110). These changes were not what 50.65% of voters endorsed in 2022. The legislature has no mandate to rewrite a citizen initiative in a more restrictive direction, especially when Measure 114 remains under court review by the Oregon Supreme Court. Advancing this bill risks further litigation and wastes taxpayer resources on measures already challenged as unconstitutional.

Second, the bill creates a two-tiered system of rights by exempting active and retired law enforcement officers from the permit requirement and large-capacity magazine restrictions. This carves out special privileges for one class of citizens while imposing stricter rules on everyone else. The right to keep and bear arms is an individual right, not a privilege granted based on occupation. Such unequal treatment violates equal protection principles and sets a dangerous precedent for eroding constitutional protections for ordinary Oregonians.

Third, delaying the permit requirement until January 1, 2028, while making other changes (like exempting permit data from public records and allowing FBI fingerprint retention) does not fix underlying problems—it entrenches them. Measure 114's permit-to-purchase system already risks becoming a de facto registry, with fingerprints and personal data collected indefinitely. HB 4145 exacerbates privacy concerns by shielding this information from oversight while expanding bureaucratic hurdles. It does nothing to address violent crime committed with illegally obtained firearms; criminals ignore permits, fees, and magazine limits. This bill burdens law-abiding residents—especially low-income, rural, and working-class Oregonians—who rely on firearms for self-defense, hunting, or sport.

Finally, the “emergency” declaration and rushed process ignore overwhelming public opposition. Written testimony has shown ratios as high as 20-to-1 against similar measures, yet the bill advanced on party lines. Oregonians deserve laws that enhance real public safety—targeting criminals, not law-abiding gun owners—without infringing on constitutional rights or ignoring voter intent.

I respectfully request that the committee vote DO NOT PASS on HB 4145. Thank you for considering this testimony.