

Submitter: Steven Scott

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4145

I am writing to express my opposition to House Bill 4145.

HB 4145 proposes significant changes to Oregon's firearm regulatory framework by modifying the permit-to-purchase system and related provisions originally adopted in Ballot Measure 114. ? While I support policies that genuinely improve public safety, this bill raises serious concerns about cost, fairness, implementation, and effectiveness.

First, HB 4145 would substantially increase the financial burden on law-abiding Oregonians. The bill raises permit fees from \$65 to \$150 and renewal fees from \$50 to \$110. ? These increases function as a barrier to entry for lower-income residents exercising a constitutional right and risk creating a system where access depends on ability to pay.

Second, the bill continues to rely on a complex permitting structure that has already faced significant legal and logistical challenges. Ballot Measure 114 itself remains the subject of ongoing litigation and implementation uncertainty. ? Moving forward with expanded or modified requirements before those issues are fully resolved risks confusion for citizens, law enforcement, and the courts.

Third, HB 4145 may impose additional administrative burdens on local agencies that must process permits and background checks. Without clear evidence that these new layers of regulation will measurably reduce violent crime, the state risks spending limited public resources on a system that primarily affects compliant gun owners rather than criminal actors.

Finally, public safety policy should be narrowly tailored and data-driven. Broad procedural hurdles and higher fees do not necessarily address the root causes of gun violence. Oregon would be better served by focusing on enforcement of existing laws, mental health resources, and targeted interventions aimed at high-risk offenders.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge lawmakers to oppose HB 4145 or substantially revise it to protect both public safety and the rights of responsible Oregonians.

Thank you for your consideration.

Steven Scott