

My name is Michael Quetel and I am writing today to express my strong opposition to House Bill 4145. While proponents suggest this bill "clarifies" Ballot Measure 114, it actually introduces several new, burdensome provisions that were never approved by voters and directly infringe upon the constitutional rights of law-abiding Oregonians.

I urge you to vote NO on HB 4145 for the following reasons:

1. Prohibitive Economic Barriers to a Constitutional Right

HB 4145 more than doubles the maximum permit fee from \$65 to \$150, with renewals costing \$110. When combined with the costs of mandatory training, fingerprinting, and time off work, the total price to exercise a Second Amendment right could exceed \$300–\$400.

Impact: This acts as a modern-day "poll tax," effectively pricing out low-income families, single parents, and rural Oregonians who may live in areas with slower law enforcement response times and a greater need for self-reliance.

2. Unreasonable Bureaucratic Delays

The bill extends the timeline for permit agents to issue or deny a permit from 30 days to 60 days.

Impact: A 60-day "waiting period" is a dangerous lifetime for someone facing a credible threat, such as a victim of domestic violence or stalking. Justice delayed is justice denied; in the context of self-defense, a delay of two months can be the difference between safety and tragedy.

3. Creation of "Two Classes" of Citizens

HB 4145 carves out broad exemptions for active and retired law enforcement officers, allowing them to bypass permit requirements and magazine capacity limits that apply to the general public.

Constitutional Concern: Under the Equal Protection Clause and Oregon's own Constitution, rights should not be contingent on one's current or former employment with the government. If these regulations are truly necessary for public safety, they should apply to everyone; if they are not, they should apply to no one.

4. Expansion of Government Surveillance

The bill mandates the creation of an electronic, searchable database of all permit holders. While the bill attempts to shield this from public record requests, history shows that centralized government registries are vulnerable to data breaches and potential future misuse. This creates a de facto registry of law-abiding citizens who have committed no crime.

5. Restricted Access to Justice

By requiring all legal challenges to this Act to be filed exclusively in the Marion County Circuit Court, HB 4145 creates a significant barrier for Oregonians living in the southern, eastern, and coastal regions of the state. This centralizes judicial power and makes it prohibitively expensive and difficult for rural citizens to challenge the legality of the law.

6. Subverting the Referendum Process

The inclusion of an emergency clause is a transparent attempt to block Oregonians from exercising their right to a referendum. Given that the permit requirements do not even take effect until January 1, 2028, there is no legitimate "emergency" that justifies bypassing the democratic process.

Conclusion:

HB 4145 does not target criminals or address the root causes of violence. Instead, it targets law-abiding citizens with increased fees, longer wait times, and a loss of privacy. It doubles down on a measure (114) that is already mired in constitutional uncertainty.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that you protect the rights of all Oregonians and vote NO on HB 4145.