

Submitter: Todd Kelley
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4145

When I read this bill, what stands out is how much power it gives to deny someone a permit based on a vague “reasonable likelihood of danger” standard. That’s not a conviction. That’s not clear evidence. That’s an opinion. We should not be limiting constitutional rights based on speculation or a hunch. If someone has committed a crime or dangerous behavior, we already have laws to address that. Arrest them, charge them, prosecute them and prohibit them when it's legal. But denying a fundamental right without due process crosses a line. Rights are not supposed to depend on whether an official thinks you might be a problem someday.

There’s also the financial burden. A \$150 upfront fee and \$110 for every renewal may not seem like much to some, but for working families, those on fixed incomes, or single parents on tight budgets, that’s significant. That’s groceries, utilities, gas for the car. Constitutional rights should never be treated like a luxury reserved only for those who have disposable income.

I have read through the arguments and supporters argue this bill will reduce violence. I understand the desire to prevent harm - we all want safer communities. But criminals, by definition, do not follow laws. This bill places new barriers on law-abiding citizens while doing little to stop those already willing to break the law.

We’re often told to look at other countries with strict gun laws. Yet violence still occurs there, sometimes simply with different tools. Australia has some of the strictest gun laws out there, terrorists used firearms to kill 15 people on Bondi Beach. In the UK, owning a gun is a heavily controlled privilege, knife crime has skyrocketed to the point that they are now thinking about banning knives. The truth is, criminals will always find a way around restrictions.

The reality is that violence is rooted in people and intent, not in objects. We cannot legislate away evil or bad decisions. What we can do is ensure that responsible, law-abiding citizens have the ability to protect themselves and their families.

HB 4145-A just seems to expand government discretion, increases financial barriers, and risks uneven enforcement without clear proof it will make our communities safer.