



OREGON HUNTERS ASSOCIATION

WILDLIFE • HABITAT • HUNTERS' RIGHTS

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Testimony on SB 978-1
Paul Donheffner, Legislative Committee Chairman

The Oregon Hunters Association, with over 10,000 members statewide, is opposed to SB-978-1, which would make a number of changes to Oregon's statutes that we believe infringe on, or violate, our 2nd Amendment Rights to keep and bear Arms, under the U.S. and State Constitutions.

This bill will effectively make hundreds of thousands of law abiding citizens into potential criminals, even felons, overnight for actions that are perfectly legal today.

Sections 1-3. Allowing businesses to establish their own age (18-21) for the purchase of firearms and ammunition is arbitrary. If there is a minimum age, state it clearly. Otherwise, it is discriminatory and the bill shouldn't shelter this activity.

Sections 4-13. OHA believes the safe storage of firearms is a personal responsibility, period. It is something that everyone should take seriously. It should not be something the State mandates or prescribes in ways that trip up law abiding citizens and makes them into criminals. The provisions in the bill will have negative consequences on self defense, where a firearm needs to be accessible or its of no use. Trigger and cable locks are ineffective if someone really wants to gain access to a firearm. Cables are no match for a cheap bolt cutter. What makes the Oregon Health Authority the appropriate agency to prescribe gun storage?

The theft reporting requirements have the potential for making the victim of theft into a criminal, or subject to unlimited liability. Reporting a gun theft will do **nothing** to prevent its potential use to commit a crime or injure/kill others. Even if the police know it is stolen, what does that do? **Nothing**. It's a record that can get lost, and it doesn't stop the thief at all. Most good citizens will report a theft, why criminalize them if they don't?

Sections 14-21. To the extent that these sections infringe on a person's right to bear arms, including building firearms, we are opposed.

Sections 22-23. We have no objection to injury reporting.

Sections 24-25. We are opposed to higher fees for issuance of concealed handgun licenses (CHL) and passing on the cost of FBI fingerprint checks. If the fee is going up, the license should be good for a longer period of time without need for renewal.

Sections 26-29 give local governments, including the Port of Portland, the ability to prohibit carry by concealed handgun license holders. It would appear to prohibit CHL holders from picking up/dropping off passengers at PDX, with a firearm unless it is unloaded and locked (as in a travel container). Merely driving a family member or friend to the airport, or picking them up, should NOT make a law abiding gun owner with a CHL into a criminal. We object to this creeping "take" of our 2nd Amendment Rights. What is accomplished by this other than making law abiding citizens into criminals?

Members of OHA are law abiding hunters, and law abiding gun owners. We have witnessed the erosion of our rights and liberties, and SB-978-1 is just the most recent example of trying to take away our rights, which are protected under the U.S. and Oregon Constitutions. Members of the Legislature take an oath of office to uphold and defend the Constitution. Please take a moment to reflect on that. Please uphold and protect our rights by opposing this bill.