

HB 2543

This bill prohibits the transfer of a firearm if the State Police cannot determine if the person receiving the firearm is qualified to receive the firearm. Currently there is a time limit that the seller of the firearm must withhold sale for the State Police to do a background check. The check is to determine if there is a basis to disqualify someone from purchasing a firearm. With this proposed law the transfer can be held up indefinitely with no real reason being given. This proposed law is ripe for bureaucratic delays with no solutions. The misplacement or absence of a record can deny the person a right guaranteed by the Oregon and United States Constitutions. Without a reasonable time limit for background checks to be completed we are at the old adage that justice delayed is justice denied. If an approval is withheld because of no available records it would appear like you are guilty until proven innocent. A request can go into a blackhole with no real remedy. There is no impetus for the State Police to do anything if there is not a consequence for inaction. The purchase should have a fixed closure that if these are no adverse records found then the transfer should be approved. The acquisition of a firearm is a right not a permission. The current law is fair and justified. I urge that this proposed law be denied.