

I stand in strong opposition to HB 2543.

2543 will allow the State Police to delay a firearm's purchase forever, even when there is no denial on a background check.

The OSP has a long history of failing to complete background checks and things have only gotten much worse since Covid and the increase in attempted purchases. The OSP's "Firearms Instant Check" unit even "cancels" firearms sales that they do not want to bother investigating with no apparent lawful authority to do so. People who are delayed are faced with the frustration of contacting the OSP "challenge line" only to have their calls ignored or mishandled.

Anyone who has tried to deal with a state agency or collect an unemployment check during the Covid lockdown knows how easily the state can simply ignore you.

If this bill is passed persons who have no criminal history of any kind will have no recourse if the State Police either mismanage the background check or simply refuse to conduct one.

A person whose safety is in danger can be told by OSP that they are simply out of luck. Some "delays" on gun purchases have gone on for several years. Under this bill gun buyers will be totally at the whim of another failed state agency. A single mom with a stalker who cannot rely on protection from any state agency can be told that she has to wait forever to have the means to protect herself and her children.

I don't know if any of you have been the victim of a stalker. I HAVE, and let me assure you, it is a thoroughly terrifying experience. My only source of comfort during this time was the knowledge that, if necessary, I could protect myself with my firearm.

I implore you not to let this bill leave committee. I won't solve any problems, rather, it will only create them.

Respectfully
Bill S. May