

I respectfully submit this testimony against HB 2543

House Bill 2543 allows for the indefinite delay of firearm transfers. Current law allows a licensed firearm dealer (FFL) to release a firearm to a purchaser the following business day if they have not received any additional correspondence from the Department of State Police after receiving a "delay" when conducting the initial background check for a firearm transfer. This safeguard prevents the potential shutdown of sales via endless delays and allows law-abiding individuals to take possession of a firearm in a timely manner. HB 2543 removes this safeguard, potentially creating a limitless delay on the exercise of a fundamental right. This legislation is extremely dangerous if someone is trying to buy a firearm for self-defense and bureaucratic hurdles get in the way of their ability to protect themselves and their families. People who do not receive a timely response will simply be denied their rights. Even 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. A right delayed is a right denied – and blocking an honest citizen's right to firearms is both unconscionable and the very definition of unconstitutional.

Respectfully,

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