

I am opposed to SB554. Over the past 30 years, one of the things I used to love about Oregon is that I felt that the State protected its citizens from the capriciousness of local governments. You knew where you stood. That is no longer true. And SB554 is proof that the state government will not provide a level playing field for all its citizens. It will create a hodgepodge of laws that will create criminals of its citizens.

While this is not a gun issue, it is an example of what can happen if there are no state standards and if people are ignorant of what the rules are.

In the community that I live in, the HOA decided that the speed limit should be 10 MPH. They never considered what state law was. They spent a bunch of money to enforce their will on the community. Some residents got pissed enough that they started a petition asking members if they liked what the HOA did. Without exaggeration, 90% of the respondents did not like what the HOA did. The HOA did not change until a few residents contacted the county to find out what the law really was about changing speed limits. Since where we lived had public access, it was not a gated community, we had to follow state law. HOA had to rip out the speed bumps and signs they illegally installed.

The point of this, is what if every little community decided everything for itself with no state standards. It would create chaos.

And that is what SB554 will do. SB554 will make a mockery of state standards. It will create havoc as to whether a citizen is a law abiding citizen on one side of a street versus the other. Just crossing from one city to another could make a person a criminal. It is possible that even driving from one part of a municipality to another will do the same.

Oregon's Concealed Handgun License should be looked at as a "good person" card. The person that has gone thru the background checks is not going to be the person causing a problem. That person has shown that they are not a criminal.

And frankly, SB554 also proves to me that government is not trustworthy. It is not of the people, for the people, by the people.

Mike Butler