



OREGON HUNTERS ASSOCIATION

Protecting Oregon's Wildlife, Habitat and Hunting Heritage

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Testimony on HB-3075
Paul Donheffner, Legislative Committee Chairman
Oregon Hunters Association

On behalf of the 12,000 members of the Oregon Hunters Association (OHA), I am submitting this testimony in strong opposition to HB-3075. OHA has long opposed Ballot Measure 114, which has serious negative impacts on our members and their constitutional right to keep and bear arms for self-defense and the hunting and shooting sports we cherish.

We have argued against BM 114 and continue to believe that it will be determined as unconstitutional under either state or federal law. The recent Oregon Court of Appeals opinion denying a “facial” challenge will be appealed, and there will be additional appeals if BM114 is ever enacted once its bizarre scheme to prevent gun purchases produces the intended effect of not being able to buy a gun. Clearly, there will be “as applied” challenges. Furthermore, BM 114 is pending a decision by the Federal Ninth Circuit and will likely end up before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Considering the current litigation and appeals, it makes no sense to further tinker with BM114. HB-3075 only makes a bad law even worse. Among other things, it would delay the timeframe for issuance of the “permits to purchase” from 30 to 60 days, further frustrating law-abiding sportsman would wish to acquire a hunting rifle, shotgun or other firearm. Even worse, it raises the fee for the permit from \$65 to \$150 – a 130% increase.

HB-3075 does nothing to ensure that the so called “safety classes” which include live fire, will be readily available. And it makes prior safety training for a concealed handgun license (CHL) worthless unless it was within the past 5 years. Many of our members obtained these licenses many years ago, completed hunter education (including firearm safety), and have responsibly used firearms throughout their lives.

HB-3075 and the underlying BM114 will put a tremendous burden on local law enforcement, which is already underfunded and understaffed. Where is the fiscal impact statement for this bill and its dash-1 amendment? This bill is only making a bad situation worse.

BM 114 created a mess for honest law-abiding citizens, while doing nothing to prevent criminals and bad people from getting their hands on firearms. Eventually it will be struck down, if not in State Court, in the federal Courts. In the meantime, the Legislature should let the judicial process move forward without throwing another monkey wrench into the pot.

HB-3075 is a terrible bill, and we urge you to leave BM114 alone. Don't make it worse!