

Submitter: Aaron Cranford
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3075

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Aaron Cranford, and I am a graduate student at Oregon State University, currently pursuing a Professional Science Masters. My professional background includes service as a United States Marine Corps Infantry Officer for eight years, and my academic work focuses on environmental policy, natural resource management, and public land conservation.

I strongly support House Bill 3075 because it provides critical updates to Oregon's firearm regulations that enhance public safety, improve administrative efficiency, and respect responsible gun ownership.

Ensuring Responsible Gun Ownership Through Training & Vetting

As someone with extensive experience handling firearms in high-risk environments, I firmly believe that proper training and vetting processes are essential. This bill strengthens the firearm permit system by:

- Requiring demonstrated competency through a safety course, law enforcement or military experience, or other approved training. Proper firearm handling is a serious responsibility, and requiring hands-on training ensures that gun owners understand safety practices and legal responsibilities.
- Extending the background check timeline from 30 to 60 days, ensuring thorough vetting. As an advocate for well-regulated public land management, I recognize the importance of due diligence in decision-making, and this change ensures that firearm permits are issued responsibly.

Balancing Rights with Public Safety

Gun ownership is a constitutional right, but rights come with responsibilities. This bill appropriately balances Second Amendment rights with necessary public safety measures by:

- Maintaining a public records exemption for firearm permit data, protecting the privacy of law-abiding gun owners while ensuring law enforcement has the necessary oversight.
- Providing reasonable exceptions for law enforcement and military personnel while maintaining strong background check requirements for the general public.
- Extending the transition period for permit requirements, giving agencies and citizens time to adjust to the new framework without unnecessary disruption.

Addressing Community Safety & Preventing Violence

From my academic research on environmental policy and public land use, I understand the importance of regulatory frameworks that protect public interests while allowing for sustainable resource management. House Bill 3075 takes a similar approach to firearm regulations—ensuring that the tools available for self-defense and recreation are acquired responsibly and do not contribute to unnecessary harm. This bill strengthens firearm safety by:

- Preventing violent offenders from obtaining permits by adding a four-year prohibition for individuals convicted of violent misdemeanors. Research consistently shows that individuals with a history of violence are at a higher risk of reoffending.
- Regulating large-capacity magazines, reducing their role in mass shootings while still respecting the rights of lawful gun owners.

As a veteran, a conservationist, and a public policy researcher, I support this bill because it represents a practical, measured approach to firearm regulation. It ensures that responsible gun owners maintain their rights while reinforcing the safety of Oregon's communities. The provisions in HB 3075 create a fair, structured process that aligns with best practices in policy-making—allowing for lawful firearm ownership while reducing risks associated with unregulated access.

I urge you to pass House Bill 3075 to promote responsible firearm ownership and enhance public safety in Oregon.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Aaron Cranford