

Submitter: Colleen Neubert
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3075

Testimony in opposition to HB3075

I vehemently oppose this bill. The whole stated premise of the bill is to “reduce gun crime” and aid in getting “crime guns” off the street. Most “crime guns” used by criminals come from guns stolen from law-abiding citizens. Nothing in this bill affects criminals who steal firearms from a residential or commercial burglary.

Unfortunately, theft of a firearm while a felony is still merely a property crime and there are minimal consequences. I have observed career criminals who were only sentenced to probation for such thefts. When sentenced to prison they are given minimal sentences because it is “just a property crime” and low on the matrix. These criminals often commit this type of crime repeatedly.

You claim the safety risk is so high that this bill must be passed with an emergency clause yet it only punishes and inconveniences law-abiding citizens who are not the problem. Criminals don’t buy guns from a legitimate retailer; they buy them off the street or steal them. Just recently in my job as a law enforcement officer I had to track a criminal who had committed a commercial burglary and stolen firearms as well as ammunition. He was already on probation for a similar crime. My K9 found him and he was arrested and those firearms recovered but the sad truth is he will most likely only see a minimal penalty.

Other issues-

Suicide by firearm; is a mental health problem. Restricting and making it harder for law-abiding citizens to obtain firearms will not lower the overall suicide rate, you would be better served supporting mental health services.

Magazine Size; this bill re-labels standard capacity magazines that are manufacturer-supplied with the firearm as “high capacity” and will only allow magazines with an arbitrary number of rounds for the law-abiding citizen. An assailant on drugs or in an extreme mental state often does not stop when being shot with one round. In the case of multiple assailants, why are we handicapping the victim by only allowing them a small number of rounds in a magazine? The criminal will still have the “high capacity” (standard capacity) magazine.

Safety would be better accomplished by focusing legislative attention on the criminal, not the law-abiding citizen.

Sincerely,
Colleen Neubert