

Submitter: Brian Johnston
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3076

Dear Senators and Representatives,

I am writing to voice my opposition to the proposed legislation directing the Department of Justice to study the establishment of a state gun dealer licensing program, with a report due to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly by December 31, 2026. While I appreciate efforts to ensure public safety, I believe this bill is unnecessary, costly, and sets the stage for unwarranted regulatory overreach that could harm law-abiding Oregonians.

First, federal law already mandates that gun dealers obtain a Federal Firearms License (FFL) through the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). Requiring the Department of Justice to study a redundant state-level licensing program duplicates existing oversight without clear evidence that current regulations are insufficient. Oregon's resources would be better directed toward enforcing existing laws rather than exploring additional bureaucratic layers.

Second, the financial and administrative burden of this study diverts taxpayer dollars from more pressing needs. The Department of Justice is already tasked with critical responsibilities, and commissioning a study—due in just over a year and a half—offers little practical benefit before its sunset on January 2, 2027. Without a demonstrated gap in federal oversight, this effort risks being a solution in search of a problem, at the expense of Oregon taxpayers.

Finally, this bill could pave the way for future legislation that infringes on the rights of responsible gun dealers and owners. A state licensing program, even if only studied now, signals an intent to impose stricter controls that may disproportionately affect small businesses and rural communities, where firearm sales are often a vital part of the economy. I urge you to consider the broader implications of this step and reject it in favor of policies that respect Oregonians' constitutional rights and economic realities.

I respectfully request that you vote against this bill and focus instead on practical, evidence-based measures to address public safety. Thank you for your service to our state and for considering my concerns. I am available to discuss this further at [your phone number] or [your email address].

Sincerely,

Brian Johnston

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