

Submitter: Colleen Neubert
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3076

I strongly oppose this bill. It does not address the root causes of gun violence and goes further to blame the victim for the theft. Our law abiding business men and women do submit purchasers for background checks, they do screen buyers. Most have security in the form of safes, alarms and video. FFLs are already regulated by the ATF, they have to get permits through them and comply with their strict regulations in addition to state and city business licenses.

I have heard certain organizations state that fire arms crime has gone up since the pandemic. I would submit that we should look at what else was going on during that time frame. The ferguson effect caused gun violence task forces with law enforcement to be disbanded because city councils and legislators did not want to prosecute criminals. "Reforms" were made to soften penalties and consequences for property crimes. Prosecution of property crimes has been considered low priority in some areas and those do have a lot of gun crime and guns on the street. Recovered stolen guns have been blamed on the ffl instead of looking at the fact that thieves steal and sell in the area often for drugs.

Nothing in this bill will affect the criminal who steals a gun or commits a crime with it. Theft of a firearm is a mere C felony. This is low on the matrix and they often get mere probation for fire arm theft. Consequences for felon in possession are low as well. Maybe they get a couple weeks jail time if they are already on probation when they commit the next crime.

Effort and budget money would be better spent addressing these root issues as well as funding more gun crime task forces with law enforcement and consequences for offenders instead of blaming the victim and law abiding citizens and business people.

I have not seen any bill put forth this session that will actually enhance penalties for stealing a fire arm or felon in possession of a firearm. If this is such an emergency that we need an emergency clause should we not address these causes? A lot of criminals would think twice if they knew a repeat theft of a firearm would land an enhanced prison sentence not to mention first time offenders might think twice if the penalty was a little higher than mere probation.