

Submitter: James Hart
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB243

HB 273 negatively impacts citizens for a variety of reasons including the unconstitutionality of restricting a citizens second amendment rights that is protected under the second amendment. This proposed bill would impose a waiting period and age restrictions unjustly to limit law-abiding citizens' ability to exercise their constitutional rights, especially for individuals who are 18 or older and legally permitted to serve in the military or vote.

Waiting periods in preventing gun violence or reducing crime have shown mixed results. Those that intend on committing violent acts will find ways to bypass regulations, and the waiting period may only inconvenience responsible gun owners without a tangible impact on reducing crime rates.

Disruption to Law-abiding Citizens: The 72-hour waiting period will create unnecessary delays for responsible, law-abiding individuals who wish to purchase a firearm for personal safety or recreational purposes. This delay would only hinder citizens who are acting within the bounds of the law and have no history of criminal behavior or intent.

Age Restrictions: Setting the legal age for firearm possession at 21 is unfairly targeting young adults who are legally allowed to participate in other activities like voting, serving in the military, and entering contracts. There is no clear, data-driven evidence to support the claim that individuals between 18 and 20 are inherently more dangerous with firearms than those over 21.

Personal Responsibility and Self-defense: Law-abiding citizens should be trusted to make their own decisions regarding gun ownership and self-defense. If an individual is legally permitted to own a firearm and passes all necessary background checks, there should be no additional barriers to exercising the right to protect oneself, especially in cases where the threat of harm is imminent.

Economic Impact on Law-abiding Gun Owners: The 72-hour waiting period will impose additional financial burdens on gun buyers who may need to make multiple trips to purchase a firearm, especially if they live in rural areas or have limited access to retailers. Moreover, small firearm businesses may face increased administrative costs and reduced sales as a result of the added waiting period.

In summary, I am in opposition of HB 273. It is a bill that places undue restrictions on legal gun ownership, inconveniences responsible citizens, and doesn't address the root causes of gun violence in a meaningful way.