

I Oppose SB 743-1 for the following reasons:

Introduction

I strongly oppose SB 743-1 due to its excessive and burdensome provisions, which infringe upon the constitutional rights of law-abiding citizens as guaranteed by the Second Amendment. This bill introduces unnecessary barriers, including restrictions on firearms with tubular magazines other than .22 caliber and an increase in age requirements. Additionally, I object to the duplication of permit requirements, excessive background check measures, and the failure to provide exemptions for military service veterans.

1. Violation of Second Amendment Rights

SB 743-1 imposes unjustifiable restrictions on firearms with tubular magazines that are not .22 caliber, a measure that disproportionately affects lawful gun owners. Tubular magazine firearms are commonly used for sporting and recreational purposes and pose no greater risk than other types of firearms. These restrictions are an overreach that infringes upon the rights of individuals to bear arms as protected under the Second Amendment.

2. Objection to Raising the Age Requirements

Increasing the minimum age for lawful gun ownership is an unwarranted restriction that unfairly targets responsible young adults. Many individuals under the proposed age threshold have demonstrated their ability to responsibly own and use firearms, including those who serve in the military or law enforcement. This measure needlessly discriminates against a segment of the population and infringes on their constitutional rights.

3. Duplication of Permit Requirements

The bill's duplication of permit requirements creates unnecessary bureaucratic hurdles without enhancing public safety. The existing permit system is effective and sufficient, and adding redundant layers only wastes resources, delays processes, and places undue burdens on individuals attempting to comply with the law.

4. Excessive Background Check and Identification Measures

While I support the current background check system, SB 743-1 introduces excessive requirements such as mandatory thumbprinting and additional identification processes. These measures are invasive, burdensome, and unnecessary, creating obstacles that hinder lawful gun ownership. The current system already ensures public safety without infringing on individual privacy.

5. Exception for Military Service Veterans

Military service veterans have received extensive training and possess unique qualifications that far exceed civilian standards. Requiring them to undergo additional training is unnecessary and dismissive of their expertise and service. An exception for veterans is essential to honor their contributions and simplify the process for those who have demonstrated exceptional responsibility in handling firearms.

Conclusion

In conclusion, SB 743-1 represents an excessive and unconstitutional overreach that imposes

unnecessary restrictions on lawful gun owners. From the firearm restrictions on tubular magazines to the increase in age requirements, this bill fails to respect the rights and contributions of responsible citizens. I urge lawmakers to reject SB 743-1 and consider amendments that protect Second Amendment rights, streamline regulations, and honor the service of military veterans.