

Submitter: Colleen Neubert  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB243

I vehemently oppose this bill.

Once again the law abiding citizen is punished and nothing really effects the criminal. Most "gun violence" acts are already illegal, yet criminals still commit those acts. When caught criminals face few if any penalties. Theft of a firearm is only a property crime and C felony. The criminal often gets mere probation for firearm theft. I can cite several instances of criminals repeatedly stealing firearms and getting probation. Criminals do not buy guns from a gun store, they steal them or buy them on the black market. Nothing in this bill will change that. A better solution would be severely upping penalties for committing gun theft and committing other crimes while in possession of a firearm.

Gun Free Zones- a better label for these is criminal free fire zones. A look at the journals of school shooters shows that the vast majority state they chose their location because it was a gun free zone and had a lot of potential victims, (so they could be famous). While we are on the subject of school shooters a lot are on psychotropic medications or have other mental health issues in their health records. A small amount of active shooters are committing terrorist acts which are already illegal. Most of these shooters do not buy their firearms from a gun store or if they do have nothing showing on their background to prevent them from getting it. Many prepare in advance. Nothing in this bill will effect these criminals. A better solution would be more funding for mental health and communication between mental health providers and the law enforcement system so those who are a danger are flagged in the background check system.

Suicide- Suicide is a mental health issue. Our mental health system is woefully underfunded and still stigmatized. Often suicide is the cross roads of alcohol and the anniversary of a trauma or a fresh trauma. Making help easier to obtain would be a better solution so that help could be sought without stigma before a crisis point is reached. There are many ways to commit suicide and this only focuses on one.

Permit to Purchase- This will adversely effect single mothers, low income individuals and senior citizens. There is NO program in place and no funding to implement it. There are no timelines by which such a permit must be issued by, will a person have to wait a month, two, three or six plus months to exercise a constitutional right? This will also only effect law abiding citizens and not the criminal. Focus on the root of the problem which is the criminal.

72 hour wait- Why add this on top of the wait for your permit? I waited over a month when backgrounds were being slow walked right after Ms 114 initially passed, why would there need to be more of a wait on top of that? Often those of us who work might have one day to go in and get shopping done. This would turn 72 hours into a week. Criminals don't have a waiting period.

Age restriction - A 17 year old can serve in the military with parental permission and an 18 year old can be drafted. The reason for this restriction is because of the criminals who are committing gang shootings and those in severe mental health crisis, often brought about by medication. A better solution would be to expand mental health access for juveniles and more penalties for gang crime and violent juvenile crime in general.

In summary most of the reasoning for this bill is because of criminals and those in mental health crisis. This bill does not address these roots. Nothing in this bill effects the criminals or helps those in crisis, merely punishes the law abiding. Tighten and enforce criminal penalties of existing law and bump up mental health resources.