

Oregon Legislature Senate Judiciary Committee hearing
on SB 243-1 27 March 2025

Good afternoon Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, fellow Judiciary Committee members I'm Rick Coufal, I am a Retired US Army Colonel, Ret Oregon Law Enforcement supervisor with 15 years' experience as a Law Enforcement Firearms and Use of Force Instructor for my department and DPSST, I am the NRA-ILA (Institute for Legislative Action) Frontlines Activist Leader (FAL) for Oregon, and a current 13-year NRA Firearms Instructor for all types of firearms.

I am testifying today against Senate Bill 243-1.

This Amendment is written in legal language that only a lawyer can understand! It exceeds the 8TH GRADE READING REQUIREMENT or even High School equivalency that is REQUIRED FOR ALL PROPOSED LEGISLATION, so that the people can read and understand the legislation and its intent. This Amendment is confusing and does not meet the basic written requirement and should be dropped.

Section 1 of SB 243-1 or SB 429 requires a mandatory 72 Hour waiting period after the OSP has issued a unique approval number to the seller. This bill infringes on the Second Amendment rights of individuals. The bill requires gun dealers to wait an additional 72 hours after the approval from the Oregon State Police with the unique approval number. Additionally, this bill creates logistical challenges for gun dealers and buyers. With this delay, it will completely stop firearm sales at gun shows here in Oregon as they are usually a 2-day event. leading to potential economic impacts on small businesses here in Oregon.

More importantly, buried in this section is the requirement for a permit to purchase permit before you can buy a firearm. This is found on page 2, lines 15 through 19, which requires a current permit to purchase before a firearm can be purchased or transferred. With Ballot Measure 114 still in the courts and HB 3075-1 still in committee, this permit to purchase would stop all firearm sales in Oregon.

Section 2 or SB 696 makes Rapid-Fire Activators (RFA), a crime of unlawful possession, purchase or receive an RFA. It will also be unlawful to transport, or transfer and RFA. Yet there is no grandfather clause for those who have legally purchased them unless you are a

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class V Firearms license holder to own machineguns. All four trigger types of Binary Trigger system, Bump Stock, Burst Trigger system and Hellfire trigger are currently legal to buy, trigger cranks, switches, auto sears are also banned by this amendment. This restriction has no off ramp for legal firearm owners that have purchased RFA's for their own enjoyment and training. Without a full cost buyback option from the State, why should anyone destroy their RFA or turn it in, of course by turning it in they demonstrate they are guilty of possession and transfer of an RFA.

Section 3 or SB 697 Prohibits persons under 21 from possessing firearms with a few exceptions. Currently individuals aged 18-21 can legally purchase AR-15 rifles in Oregon. The state law allowed those who were at least 18 years old to buy/own handguns, rifles and shotguns, including semi-automatic firearms like the AR-15, semi-automatic shotguns and handguns if they pass a criminal background check. If you are a 19 yrs old and own an AR-15 or semi-automatic Shotgun for Skeet or hunting, when SB 243-1 passes and you cannot possess such a firearm, what is the process for exception or is it confiscation or a crime of possession for a legally purchased/transferred firearm owned by a minor? Again, no off ramp.

I am equally concerned about the under 18 yr provision on firearm possession for youth shooting sports, this bill will gut that program entirely, page 12, lines 1 through 15.

Section 4 or SB 698 public area restrictions is a very complex and confusing bill for the average concealed handgun permit holder here in Oregon. Governing bodies of certain public entities that own or control public buildings can adopt policies, or regulations limiting the affirmative defense for concealed handgun licenses for the crime of possessing a firearm in a public building or grounds. Basically, concealed carry firearm users need to be extremely careful where they walk, drive, park around public buildings for fear of breaking these laws or ordinances and they had better have a safe in their vehicle to store their firearm if they have to go into any of these areas.

I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to come before the committee or committee members individually to discuss ways to clarify and improve SB 243-1.