

Submitter:

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On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB243

As someone who values the safety and well-being of our community, I see why supporters of SB 243 are pushing for change—they want to address risks and ensure responsibility, which are noble aims we can all get behind. But I have serious concerns about this bill and must oppose it, especially because it lacks a clear, workable system to implement its goals. Without a solid framework in place, SB 243 risks creating chaos rather than solutions, particularly for law-abiding citizens exercising their Second Amendment rights.

The Constitution guarantees our right to bear arms, and millions of responsible Americans—hunters, sport shooters, and those protecting their families—rely on that freedom every day. SB 243, as it stands, seems to assume bad actors can be deterred by piling on rules, but it doesn't spell out how those rules will be enforced fairly or consistently. There's no infrastructure detailed—no streamlined process, no safeguards to prevent delays, errors, or overreach. What happens when a law-abiding gun owner tries to comply but gets tangled in red tape because the state hasn't set up a system that works? We're talking about real people here—folks who've done everything right, suddenly facing fines, legal headaches, or even losing their rights over technicalities.

Take background checks or registration requirements, for instance—if that's part of this, who's managing it? Are we ready to process thousands of applications without backlogs? Without funding or staff in place, this could mean months of waiting for someone just trying to buy a rifle for deer season. That's not safety; that's punishment for exercising a constitutional right. And for those in rural areas or with limited resources, the burden gets even heavier—traveling to comply, paying extra fees, or navigating a system that doesn't exist yet could make their rights feel more like a privilege for the well-connected.

I'm all for addressing real threats, but SB 243 feels like a knee-jerk reaction that skips the hard work of building something effective. We need solutions that target actual problems—like mental health support or cracking down on illegal trafficking—not a vague law that could bog down the innocent while the guilty slip through the cracks. Let's unite around a plan that respects our shared values, including the Second Amendment, and doesn't leave lawful citizens bearing the weight of an untested, unfunded idea.