

Submitter: Steve Farrington

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB696

Senate Bill 696's ban on "rapid fire activators" targets lawful firearm modifications while ignoring illegal gun crime. Its vague definition—devices increasing a firearm's firing rate beyond its "unmodified capability"—risks criminalizing common performance-enhancing triggers, even if not designed for automatic fire. This creates confusion for law-abiding owners and manufacturers.

The bill imposes disproportionate penalties: mere possession carries up to 364 days' imprisonment and \$6,250 fines, while manufacturing/transfer offenses incur 10-year sentences and \$250,000 fines—harsher than many violent crime penalties.

Meanwhile, criminals using illegal fully automatic weapons remain subject to existing federal laws, rendering SB 696 redundant.

By invoking an emergency clause, the bill bypasses voter input, forcing costly legal battles over potential Second Amendment violations. Instead of penalizing responsible gun owners for benign modifications, Oregon should focus on prosecuting illegal firearm trafficking and violent offenders. SB 696 prioritizes optics over practical solutions.