

Submitter:

Kris McManus

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB243

I am writing today to voice my strong opposition to the proposed legislation that mandates a 72-hour waiting period for firearm and certain firearm part transfers, establishes new restrictions on so-called “rapid fire activators,” and expands limitations on the rights of Concealed Handgun License (CHL) holders in public spaces.

While I appreciate the stated intent to improve public safety, this bill unfairly burdens law-abiding Oregonians and raises several serious concerns:

The 72-hour waiting period imposes an unnecessary delay on responsible gun purchasers who have already passed a criminal background check. This is not a “cooling-off” measure—there is no clear data showing that a fixed delay after background clearance prevents crime. Instead, it restricts lawful citizens’ ability to protect themselves, especially survivors of domestic violence or those facing credible threats who may urgently need a firearm for self-defense.

The bill introduces vague language regarding “rapid fire activators,” potentially criminalizing devices that are legal under federal law and have legitimate recreational or sporting use. Creating two new criminal offenses—one a felony—without a clear definition or robust evidence of these devices being widely misused, is excessive. The penalties outlined are severe and may entrap well-meaning citizens.

The bill permits local governments and special districts to override CHL-holder protections, turning lawful concealed carry into a legal minefield. This patchwork approach endangers the rights of responsible permit holders who could inadvertently commit a crime simply by walking into the wrong building. It undermines the uniformity and legal clarity that CHL holders rely on.

The directive for the Department of State Police to conduct studies on background check “efficiency” adds little substantive value and appears to justify further regulatory delays. Oregonians already face significant wait times due to administrative backlogs—the focus should be on improving current systems, not adding more red tape.

This legislation disproportionately impacts law-abiding citizens, does little to address violent crime, and risks infringing on constitutional rights without delivering measurable public safety benefits. I urge you to reject this bill and instead focus on policies that target criminal misuse of firearms—not the freedoms of responsible gun-owners.

