



To Chair Bowman, Vice Chairs Pham and Drazan, and members of the House Committee on Rules,

We are members of the Multnomah Democrats' Criminal Justice Study Group and we write to you as Oregonians, residents of the City of Portland, and concerned citizens. We strongly urge your committee to advance SB 243-B, which would adopt meaningful, evidence-based solutions, narrowly tailored to improve safe and responsible firearm ownership, while directly and effectively addressing some of the many factors contributing to the gun violence epidemic in our state. SB 243-B would:

1. **Require gun dealers to wait 72 hours after requesting a criminal background check before transferring a firearm.** Oregon currently has no law requiring a waiting period between firearm purchase and delivery. A waiting period is more than a mere regulatory requirement, it supports safer and responsible gun ownership by introducing a “cooling off” period between the purchase and transfer of a firearm, which has been shown to significantly reduce both firearm homicide and suicide attempts by giving individuals additional time to reconsider actions. Waiting periods also support law enforcement, by granting federal agencies sufficient time to thoroughly and accurately verify the buyer’s eligibility, cross-check criminal national criminal records and mental health flags, and investigate potential discrepancies or outdated information. SB 243-B would not change the current requirement for dealers to request a background check, but without a waiting period, firearms can sometimes be transferred before adequate review can be completed.
2. **Ban rapid fire activators.** Oregon currently has no law banning the ownership, use, or sale of rapid-fire activators, such as “bump stocks”. A bump stock is the type of device used in the 2017 massacre in Las Vegas, NV, in which a lone shooter fired more than 1,000 rounds in less than 10 minutes, murdering 60 people and wounding at least 413 others, making it the deadliest massacre in modern US history. Oregon is one of just 26 states which currently allow civilians with the proper federal license, to own fully automatic firearms under the 1934 National Firearms Act (NFA). SB 243-B would not change the legality of fully automatic firearms covered under the NFA; any person who has a lawfully registered, fully automatic firearm is explicitly excluded from the ban on rapid-fire activators. However, rapid-fire activators enable a shooter to make a semi-automatic firearm fire as if it were fully automatic, thus bypassing our current licensing requirements on the ownership of fully automatic firearms.
3. **Enable cities, counties, and districts to individually determine whether firearm possession, including concealed carry, should be prohibited from public buildings.** Current Oregon law already prohibits the possession, including concealed carry, of firearms in certain State and Federal public buildings. SB 243-B would extend and make clear the power of any city, county, or district, to adopt similar prohibitions in their public buildings. This law does not require city, county, or district governing bodies to prohibit firearm possession in public buildings, and there will be no changes for those that elect not to adopt such restrictions. However, this law would require notice and posting requirements from any governing body that does adopt such restrictions.

For all of these reasons, we strongly support SB243-B and urge you to advance this bill to a floor vote.

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