



Gun Owners of Maine News Bulletin

March 2018

GUN CONTROL RETURNS TO AUGUSTA

State and Federal bills threaten gun rights

A number of after-deadline bills related to gun control and school violence were brought before the Legislative Council, to determine if they would be allowed to proceed in the Second Regular Session of the 128th Legislature. The Maine Constitution limits the nature of the bills which can be considered in the Second Regular Session, being limited mostly to budgetary matter, Governor's bills, and legislation of an emergency nature. Naturally, anti-gun forces were claiming their bills were of an emergency nature. In order to move ahead, bills need to obtain a majority of the votes of the 10-member Council.

ANTI-GUN BILLS DEFEATED:
LR 2792, Rep. Scott Haman
An Act to Prohibit the Purchase and Possession of Bump Stocks

LR 2945, Rep. Heather Sanborn
An Act To Prohibit High-capacity Magazines

LR 2944, Sen. Rebecca Millet
An Act To Require the Department of Education To Report to the Legislature Annual Incidents Involving Firearms in School and To Make This Information Available to the Public Online

SCHOOL SAFETY BILLS

APPROVED:

Rep. Patrick Corey had his **LR 2937** unanimously approved, "An

Your Freedom Isn't Free

Mainers are fortunate to live in a place where they enjoy some of the best firearms laws in the country. Gun Owners of Maine has helped make it that way, and helps keep it that way. But the reality is that, even for a grassroots organization like us, it takes resources to carry out our mission to defend and extend gun rights. In the current climate, with a richly-funded anti-gun lobby pushing state and Federal anti-gun bills, we are stretched pretty thin. We survive on the support of gun owners like yourself, for whom your gun rights are too valuable to leave to someone else's generosity. Paid memberships, donations and raffle ticket sales are all important forms of support for our work. Please consider supporting us, so we can continue to defend and extend our gun rights, and pass them along to the next generation.

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Act to Strengthen School Security", which would provide funding to harden schools from violent attack. Congratulations to Rep. Corey.

A related bill, **LR 2949**, by Sen. Rebecca Millet, "An Act to Include Security Installations and Upgrades in Maine's School Revolving Renovation Fund" was also approved.

ANTI-GUN BILL APPROVED:
One very serious anti-gun bill was approved by the Council, Sen. Dion's **LD 1884**, "An Act to Create a Community Protection Order". This is a retread of his Gun Violence Restraining Order bill from the First Regular Session of the 128th Legislature, and probably shouldn't have been allowed to be reintroduced on that basis alone. Nonetheless, this bill advanced on a 7-3 vote. This

bill is a naked gun grab, allowing the government to confiscate your firearms for 21 day without notice or recourse, and to extend that seizure for 6 months at a time, all on the basis of an accusation by law enforcement, disgruntled family members, or even former partners.

PRO-GUN BILL REJECTED:

Sen. Eric Brakey's **LR 2952**, "An Act to Allow School Administrative Units to Establish Rule, Procedures and Guidelines for Properly Trained Staff to Carry a Concealed Handgun on School Property while Acting in Their Official Capacities", did not obtain Council approval. We hope to persuade Governor LePage to submit this as a Governor's Bill, and allow our teachers the chance to defend themselves and their students.

NEW FEDERAL “ASSAULT WEAPON” BAN INTRODUCED INTO CONGRESS

HR 5087, sponsored by Rep David Cicilline, D-RI, and featuring Maine’s own Chellie Pingree as a co-sponsor, was introduced in the House on February 26, in reaction to the Parkland, Florida school shooting event.

This bill is a gun-banner’s dream come true, banning numerous common rifles based on cosmetic features, prohibiting standard-capacity magazines, and even semiautomatic pistols that happen to have a threaded barrel. It also incorporates a ban on devices such as bump stocks, which were used in the Las Vegas shooting.

We do not have to ask if this bill will be effective: We know it will not be, because we have already run this experiment with the 1994 Assault Weapon Ban. When that law went into effect, it did not decrease crimes committed with the effected firearms. When it expired, such crimes did not increase. The ban had zero effect on crime, but profoundly infringed the gun rights of Americans. This new bill is even more far-reaching, and more repugnant because we know that it can do no good.

EXECUTIVE ACTIONS THREATENED

President Trump has directed the Department of Justice to formulate new rules which would classify bump stocks under the National Firearms Act of 1934, essentially defining them as creating a machine gun. The legality of such a rule is highly questionable, given the current definition of “machine gun” in law, and given ATF’s previous classification of bump stock devices.

The President has also made com-

ments regarding seizing firearms from disturbed individuals deemed to be an imminent or incipient danger to others, but has disturbingly suggested that due process might be delayed or sacrificed if the government decides that an individual’s firearms should be seized. Due process is the only check individuals have against abuse of this power by the government, and cannot be sacrificed for expediency.

AND THAT’S JUST THE BEGINNING

All of this has happened in the three weeks since the Parkland shooting. Anti-gun forces have prepared for this shooting, and are milking it for all that it is worth to advance their agenda. These measures won’t be the last.

We have already seen a coordinated attack on businesses that deal in guns, to “voluntarily” knuckle under to anti-gun demands, and even unrelated businesses that extend benefits to members of the NRA to withdraw those benefits, all with the intention of casting the NRA, and the Americans who belong to it, as national pariahs.

We have seen carefully, professionally stage-managed child-victims stood up before TV cameras and put on the road to stump for gun control, using emotional blackmail. The anti-gunners didn’t put this together in the days after Parkland. This plan was already in a desk drawer, waiting for the next school shooting.

We have to realize this isn’t just another round in a long fight. Our opponents expect this is the round where they beat us into submission.

We cannot, and we must not allow that. Stay informed on gunownersofmaine.org, and help us help you.

New Gun Owner? Try SAFER!

If you are a new firearm owner, or if you know someone who is, consider taking Gun Owners of Maine’s 100% free online gun safety course, SAFER. It’s available 24 hours a day at safer-maine.org, and provides a good basic grounding in handguns, concealed carry, firearms safety and the law as it relates to firearms and their use.

Gun Owners of Maine, Inc. is a volunteer, grassroots Maine nonprofit corporation dedicated to preserving and protecting the right of the people to keep and bear arms, and assists members and nonmembers alike in locating training and educational resources to further responsible firearms handlings and ownership. Gun Owners of Maine is a nonpartisan citizen activist group and does not endorse any political group.

Help support our mission to defend and extend gun rights by being an informed gun owner. Like our Facebook Page and join our Facebook Group (just search for Gun Owners of Maine), and visit our web site at gunownersofmaine.org.

Consider a membership or a donation if you would like to help financially support our work.

