

GUN LAW TRENDWATCH

2019 MID-YEAR REVIEW

In 2019, states continue to pass innovative, effective laws while critical federal bills passed by the House remain stalled in the Senate.

For years, a Congress dominated by members beholden to the gun industry has done little to address our nation's gun violence epidemic. During the 2018 midterm elections, fed-up voters elected a gun safety majority to the House of Representatives, which swiftly took action in 2019.

For the first time in a decade, the House of Representatives meaningfully addressed gun violence by passing four critical gun safety bills, including bills to address the

loopholes in our background checks system. Sadly, NRA-backed senators prevented further progress. But the Senate can't prevent this wave of activism from benefiting Americans.

1684
FIREARM BILLS
TRACKED IN 2019

Since the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School in December 2012, 45 states and DC have enacted over 315 gun safety laws. This trend has only intensified since the shooting in Parkland in February 2018—in the past 17 months, 32 states and DC have passed over 110 bills,

including 16 states with Republican governors. In the 2019 state legislative cycle alone, 22 states and DC have signed 47 gun safety bills into law.

This lifesaving progress encompasses states like **Colorado, Hawaii, Nevada, and New York**, which have enacted extreme risk protection orders that facilitate temporarily disarming a dangerous person in crisis. **New Mexico** and **Nevada** passed major legislation to close the private sale loophole and ensure that all gun sales are subject to background checks. Several states, including **New Mexico, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oregon,** and **Washington**, expanded efforts to keep guns out of the hands of domestic abusers.

A number of states invested in violence intervention programs. **California** tripled its annual funding for grants to community-based organizations, from \$9 million to \$30 million. **Illinois** invested \$25 million in a similar program and **Connecticut** allocated \$1 million to Project Longevity, a violence-intervention strategy.

2019 has shown us that courageous legislators are willing to prioritize gun violence prevention, as states respond to voters' demands and lead the steady march towards a safer America.

2019 STATE GUN LAW VICTORIES

New Lifesaving Gun Laws

BACKGROUND CHECKS

Three states enacted laws that add a background check requirement or improve on an existing law: **New Mexico** SB 8, **Nevada** SB 143, and **Washington** HB 1465.

BUMP STOCKS & TRIGGER ACTIVATORS

Nevada AB 291, a bill introduced by a Route 91 survivor, bans all trigger activators. **District of Columbia** B22-0588 bans bump stocks.

CHILD ACCESS PREVENTION

Three states strengthened laws that help keep unattended guns out of the hands of minors: **Connecticut** HB 7218, **Delaware** HB 63, and **Nevada** AB 291. Delaware's law also criminalizes reckless or intentional failure to secure a gun when a prohibited person accesses it.

COMMUNITY VIOLENCE REDUCTION PROGRAMS

Six states passed laws to provide funding to evidence-based community gun violence reduction strategies. **California** AB 74 more than tripled funding for its Violence Intervention and Prevention (CalVIP) program and **Illinois** SB 262 nearly doubled its investment in violence prevention and street outreach programs. **Connecticut** HB 7424, **Nebraska** L 294, **Rhode Island** HB 5151 and **New York** AB 2003 also passed community violence reduction funding.

DEALER REGULATIONS

Illinois SB 337 comprehensively regulates firearms dealers in the state, requiring dealers to obtain a state license, secure their premises, and conduct background checks on employees, among other things.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Five states enacted laws that help keep firearms away from domestic abusers: **Arkansas** HB 1851, **Louisiana** HB 279, **New Mexico** SB 328, **Oregon** HB 2013, and **Washington** HB 1225, HB 1517, and HB 1786.

EXTREME RISK PROTECTION ORDERS

Six states and the District of Columbia enacted or strengthened measures that allow law enforcement, a family member, or others in the community to petition for a temporary order removing access to firearms by at-risk individuals: **Colorado** HB 1177, **District of Columbia** B22-0588 and B23-0286, **Hawaii** SB 1466, **Indiana** HB 1651, **Nevada** AB 291, **New York** SB 2451, and **Washington** SB 5027.

GHOST GUNS

Three states passed laws regulating untraceable or undetectable firearms, including homemade and 3D printed guns: **Connecticut** HB 7219, **New Jersey** SB 3897, and **Washington** HB 1739.

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KEEP UP ON THE LATEST TRENDS IN STATE FIREARM LEGISLATION AND VIEW PAST ISSUES

New Gun Lobby Laws

For years, the gun lobby has opposed evidence-based gun safety laws proven to save lives, focusing instead on turning a profit by putting as many guns in as many places as possible. In recent years, the gun lobby has prioritized arming teachers, despite the fact that eight out of ten teachers oppose this policy. The gun lobby also continues to push dangerous permitless carry and concealed carry policies, at the expense of the safety and wellbeing of the American people.

Despite internal chaos within the NRA, the gun lobby continues to promote reckless policies in state legislatures across the country. In 2019 and beyond, we will keep up the fight against these dangerous policies.

WE'RE ON A MISSION TO SAVE LIVES

For over 25 years, the legal experts at Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence have been fighting for a safer America by researching, drafting, and defending the laws, policies, and programs proven to save lives from gun violence. Founded in the wake of a 1993 mass shooting in San Francisco, in 2016 the Law Center joined with former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords to form a courageous new force for gun safety that stretches coast to coast.

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Concealed Carry: Two states weakened laws requiring a permit to carry a concealed weapon: **Tennessee** HB 1264 and **Indiana** HB 1284.

Dangerous Weapons: Three states repealed laws that regulate unusually dangerous weapons and accessories: **Arkansas** SB 400 and HB 1820, **Indiana** SB 119, and **North Dakota** HB 1308.

Guns in Schools: Two states enacted laws aimed at allowing guns in K-12 schools: **Indiana** HB 1284 and **North Dakota** HB 1332. **Florida** SB 7030 expanded the state's "school guardian" program.

Guns in Public: Three states passed laws that allow more guns in public spaces: **Idaho** HB 199, **Texas** SB 535, and **West Virginia** SB 18.

Permitless Carry: Four states enacted or modified laws that would allow people to carry hidden guns in public without a permit: **Idaho** HB 206, **Kentucky** SB 150, **Oklahoma** HB 2597, and **South Dakota** SB 47.

Preemption: Two states further restricted the freedom of local governments to regulate guns: **South Dakota** HB 1056 and **Texas** HB 3231. **Montana** HB 357 puts the issue of preemption on the 2020 ballot.

Other Dangerous Laws: The **Iowa** legislature passed SJR 18, a first step toward putting a constitutional amendment on the 2022 ballot to require courts to use strict scrutiny to review gun laws. **Indiana** HB 1284 expands the state's Stand Your Ground law. **Utah** HB 94 expands the situations in which an intoxicated person can possess a gun in public.

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