



Arizona Citizens Defense League

Protecting Your Freedom

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AzCDL's Membership Newsletter

February 2011

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New Bills Introduced in 2011



The 2011 Legislative session is underway. This year, we have a Republican Governor, along with solid Republican majorities in both chambers of the Legislature. We started working with legislators on proposed bills for 2011 right after the 2010 session ended. As a result, a number of pro-rights bills have been filed.

While the stage is set for pro-rights victories, we can't take anything for granted. Anti-rights legislators have begun exploiting the January shooting tragedy, at Congresswoman Giffords rally in Tucson, by introducing bills to punish YOU, the law-abiding gun owner. YOUR help is critical in reminding legislators who they work for and to vote on principles, not political correctness.

The following are key firearms and self-defense related bills that we are monitoring. You can find these bills listed on our website's Legislation page. We have a very busy agenda this year. AzCDL's representatives are working full time on these bills at the Capitol, but the success or failure of any of them is dependent on your involvement.

Right to Carry

Last year's passage of the history making, AzCDL-requested, Constitutional Carry legislation was a major milestone, but it's not the be-all-end-all of Right to Carry legislation. It was just the beginning. There are several areas in Arizona law that need to be improved. The pro-rights bills listed below are steps in the proper direction.

HB 2614 & SB 1201 are identical AzCDL-requested bills. The core of these bills deal with "Public Buildings" (i.e., government owned or operated buildings and vehicles) and "Public Events" (i.e. events open to the public and licensed by the government) banning firearms.

Under current law, all they need to do to ban the carrying of firearms is post "No Firearms" signs and provide readily available storage. This has the perverse effect of disarming the law-abiding while allowing those with no respect for the law to remain armed at will.

Under the proposed law, firearms cannot be banned unless a number of conditions are met (metal detectors, armed guards, etc.) that ensure that an armed person cannot enter undetected. The proposed legislation also allows for injunctive relief if Public Establishments or Public Events don't obey the law.

HB 2140 is an AzCDL-requested bill that would prohibit rental/lease agreements and homeowner association documents from requiring a person to waive their right to bear arms.

HB 2017 would clarify and expand the actions a property owner, tenant, employer or business must take to ban firearms from vehicles on their property.

HB 2006 is an AzCDL-requested bill that would repeal the statute that prohibits the carrying of firearms in game refuges. Under current law, if you are armed and hiking, bicycling, wildlife watching, etc. in an area designated as a game refuge, you are a criminal – unless you have government permission to be there.

As we mentioned before, anti-rights legislators have their sights set, not on making sure bad people are punished, but on YOU the law-abiding gun owner. The following bills have been introduced to diminish legitimate firearm ownership.

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New Bills Introduced for 2011



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HB 2711 is a bill, introduced by Representative Farley (D-28), that would ban magazines with a capacity greater than 10 rounds. If the Tucson attacker had driven into the crowd with a car, would Rep. Farley introduce a bill demanding smaller gas tanks?

SB 1588 is a bill introduced by Senator Gallardo (D-13) that would make it a crime to enter "any state building, including the House of Representatives wing and the Senate wing of the State Capitol, carrying a deadly weapon." Translation: How dare the common citizens be allowed to have the means to defend themselves in the presence of their superiors.

Self Defense

The right to legitimately protect yourself without worrying about being sued or being persecuted by overzealous prosecutors has always been a concern. The following bills work to strengthen your right to defend yourself.

SCR 1020 & HCR 2031 are identical AzCDL-requested proposed Constitutional Amendments that would protect crime victims from law suits by those who harm them. Assuming either bill passes, it will be sent to the Secretary of State to be placed on the ballot.

Currently, Article 2, Section 31 and Article 18, Section 6, of the Arizona Constitution, prohibit the passing of any laws that limit the ability of a person to recover damages for death or personal injury. Unfortunately, that means if you are forced to defend yourself or your loved ones with physical force, there is nothing in the law that prevents your attacker from suing you. The proposed Constitutional Amendment would add exceptions from the "right to sue" for crime victims that are sued for damages by their attackers who sustain harm when engaging in a felony offense.

SB 1469 would strengthen the statutes regarding the justification of the use of force. It would assume that a person who is unlawfully entering is presumed to pose an imminent threat, and that a person who is justified in the use of force is not subject to criminal prosecution.

HB 2145 is an AzCDL-requested bill that would clarify that "defensive display" includes placing a hand on a holstered firearm.

HB 2583 attempts to prevent what you say in a 9-1-1 call, after being involved in an act where deadly physical force was used, from being admissible in court proceedings.

Campus Carry

Four bills have been filed this year aimed at restoring the right of adults (21 and older) with CCW permits to possess the tools for self-defense on college and university campuses.

HB 2001 would allow faculty members with CCW permits to possess a "concealed" firearm on campus.

HB 2014 & SB 1467 are AzCDL-requested bills that would prohibit college and university governing boards from creating or enforcing a policy or rule that would prevent CCW permit holders from possessing a "concealed" weapon on campus.

HB 2479 would prohibit college and university governing boards from creating or enforcing a policy or rule that would prevent CCW permit holders from possessing a "concealed" weapon on campus, or the transportation of storage or storage of a firearm in a private vehicle.

Related to Campus Carry is **HB 2392**. This AzCDL-requested bill states that a person who lawfully owns or possesses a firearm would be considered by Arizona to meet the requirements of federal law regarding the possession of a firearm near school grounds (the 1,000 foot rule).

On the negative side, Senator Gallardo's **SB 1587** would add colleges and universities to the definition of "schools" in ARS 13-3102 (misconduct with weapons), expanding the places where weapons are prohibited (disarmed victim zones). Currently, a "school" is Kindergarten through 12th grade.

Firearms Sales

The following bills are undisguised efforts to limit your ability to buy and sell firearms. If you don't want to see them become law, it's critical that you get involved in defeating them.

HB 2691, a bill introduced by Representative Richard Miranda (D-13), would require that any person who sells 3 or more "high caliber" firearms must report the sale to DPS. "High caliber" is broadly defined to include almost any firearm.

SB 1060, a bill introduced by Senator Sinema (D-15), would make fraudulent (broadly defined) firearms sales, retail and private, a crime of "racketeering." This would effectively eliminate private sales.

SB 1586 (Senator Gallardo again) would require NICS background checks on all firearm sales (including private sales) at any "firearm show" (broadly defined to include almost any gathering where firearms might be sold).

Hunting

The following bills have been introduced to benefit hunters.

SB 1334 would prohibit political subdivision from enacting any ordinance or regulation limiting the area of a lawful hunting event during open season.

SB 1335 would add jackrabbits, raccoons and predatory animals to the list of animals that may be taken at night.

CCW Reform

HB 2146 is an AzCDL-requested bill that removes the burden from DPS to approve CCW training courses, training organizations, and instructors.

States Rights

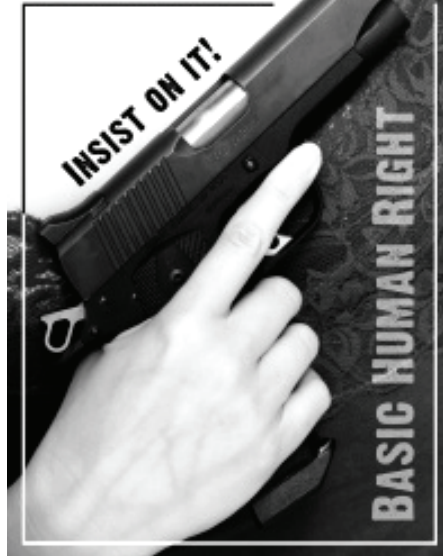
SB 1391 would authorize and direct the governor to enter into interstate compacts with other states that have a "Firearms Freedom Act" like the one that became law in Arizona last year.

Lessons from Tucson

On January 8, 2011 a political "meet and greet" in a Tucson shopping center parking lot became a living nightmare when a man targeted Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords for assassination. After walking to the front of the crowd and shooting Rep. Giffords at point blank range, he continued shooting as he worked his way through the crowd. Three local heroes emerged and subdued and disarmed the assassin. By then 19 people were shot. Six victims were killed, including a 9 year old girl and a federal judge. By most accounts it was all over in less than a minute.

Predictably after the carnage, the anti-rights zealots began exploiting the tragedy. In general they blamed all the law-abiding gun owners who didn't attend the gathering and eventually focused on the technology used by the gunman, in particular the extended capacity magazine he carried. Using convoluted logic they assert that if a committed mass murderer could only use magazines of limited capacity it is somehow better, because it would take slightly longer to shoot all their victims.

**HAVING THE MEANS TO PROTECT
LIFE, LIBERTY & PROPERTY
IS A BASIC HUMAN RIGHT**



Also predictably anti-rights politicians began calling for more "gun control." In Arizona a half dozen bills have been filed to punish, not the perpetrator of the Tucson shooting, but Arizona's law-abiding gun owners. At both the state and federal levels, bills have been filed

to limit the capacity of magazines used in firearms to 10 rounds.

Oddly, in a state where any law-abiding adult can freely choose to carry a firearm openly or discreetly, no mention was made that, outside of the attacker, no one attending this event was carrying a firearm. Political ideology may have played a role. The political party represented at this event is associated with efforts to control the access of citizens to the means of self-defense.

This tragedy demonstrates that when seconds count, the police are just minutes away. While the police may be the "first" responders, victims of a crime are the "immediate" responders. How you react can mean life or death. Being armed and aware of your surroundings is a choice that unfortunately, too many people avoid because of the heavy responsibility that comes with it.

Always be armed, vigilant and aware.
Your safety is your responsibility.



Join us at Front Sight



You are invited to join AzCDL on our second annual trek to Front Sight, Nevada, for a 4 day Defensive Handgun class April 15-18, 2011.

More information on the class can be found at Front Sight's website:

<http://www.frontsight.com>

Don't let the cost of the class scare you. Steeply discounted course certificates are available from AzCDL members who are also Front Sight life members.

Because Front Sight trains thousands of students every year, hotels fill up fast, especially during the months with the

best climate, like April. So you won't be left out, AzCDL has booked a block of rooms at a special rate, at the Saddle West hotel in Pahrump.



To learn more about the class, hotel reservations, or obtaining course certificates, please contact Duke Schechter at

duke.schechter@azcdl.org

Or you can call and leave a message at AzCDL's main number, (623) 594-5821.

The heaviest thing about carrying a firearm is the responsibility that comes with it. Even though Arizona's CCW permit is optional, that doesn't relieve us from our duty to know the law, become competent in our "skill at arms," and understand our responsibilities. The same goes for those who have a CCW permit. Your training never ends.



Federal Firearms Legislation

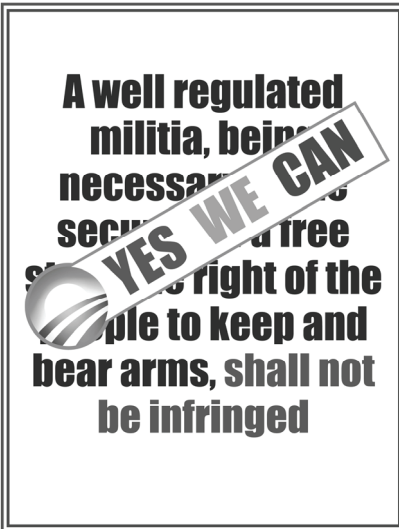


As President Obama's former Chief of Staff, Rahm Emmanuel, was fond of saying "never let a crisis go to waste." It wasn't long after the Tucson tragedy that anti-right groups saw opportunities to impose their schemes at the national level.

One politician proposed making it illegal for anyone with a firearm to be within 1,000 feet of an elected official. With over 300 Million firearms in the U.S., maybe a better law would be that no politician can be within 1,000 feet of a firearm? That would certainly make it more difficult for them to meddle in our lives.

The only federal bill introduced so far is by Representative Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY). Her bill, H.R. 308, would ban magazines over 10 rounds.

With a Republican controlled federal congress, it's unlikely that any "gun control" legislation will make any progress this session.



Even during the last session, with anti-rights majorities in the Senate and House of Representatives, the "Blair Holt's Firearm Licensing & Record of Sale Act" was introduced, calling for the

screening, testing and registration of all firearms owners. The bill never got a hearing and with the change in sessions, it no longer exists.

Will more federal gun control legislation be introduced after the attempted assassination of Congresswoman Giffords? More likely than not. Should we be vigilant? Always!

What role does AzCDL play in federal legislation? We always have our eye on what's going on at the federal level as well as in other states.

However, there are already at least a half dozen well funded and powerful national firearms related organizations, starting with the 4+ Million member NRA, monitoring and reporting on the happenings at the National level.

AzCDL is going to continue to focus on Arizona legislation where we know we can make a difference. Want to help? Renew or upgrade your membership.

4,000 Members! Woo Hoo!

Congratulations and THANK YOU!

In early February, AzCDL's 4,000th member joined. That's incredible for an organization that's only 5 1/2 years old!

The credit for our phenomenal growth goes to YOU, our members who continue to support us in our fight to restore the Right to Bear Arms in Arizona.

A huge hat tip goes to our small, but vital, army of event volunteers, too numerous to list here, who give up their weekends to stand at the AzCDL table and convince passersby that an investment in AzCDL is better than buying the latest gee-whiz item at all those other tables.

The greater our membership, the greater our clout at Arizona's Capitol. With 3,000 members we made history with Constitutional Carry. Arizona is now the model for other states who want to restore their right to bear arms.

With 4,000 members we expect to ex-



pand your rights even further during the 2011 legislative session.

We're pushing for 5,000 members by the end of 2011. Think about what we can accomplish together with 10 thousand, 50 thousand, or 100 thousand members!

As our membership expands, so does our outreach. We've learned that if we're going to attract new members, we need to be where potential members

live. That means everywhere in Arizona.

We have event coordinators and volunteers throughout the Phoenix-Tucson corridor, Sierra Vista, Prescott Valley and Yuma.

Starting in March, we're looking at gun shows in Kingman, Winslow and Pine-top. If you know of an up coming event that you are willing to help AzCDL set-up and staff, our membership coordinator, Duke Schechter can help you.

If you would like to be the AzCDL event coordinator in your area, let us know.

More importantly, if you could spare a few hours on a weekend to help us spread the word about AzCDL and our (your!) successes at gun shows and other events, contact us!

The best person to contact is Duke
duke.schechter@azcdl.org

Or, call and leave a message at AzCDL's main number, (623) 594-5821.