



Arizona Citizens Defense League

Protecting Your Freedom

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AzCDL's Membership Newsletter

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Legislative Session Underway



The 2016 Legislative session convened on Monday, January 11. This year we once again have a Republican Governor and Republican majorities in the Senate and House. Now, it is up to us as activists to make sure that legislation restoring and protecting our rights becomes law and bad bills are stopped.

Over 1,000 bills were filed this session. The following are key bills that impact your Right to Keep and Bear Arms (RKBA). You can view the status of all the bills we are monitoring this session at [AzCDL's Bill Tracking Page](#).

Blocking Gun Owner Registration

The push for "[universal background checks](#)" is in reality a push for the identification and *registration* of gun owners. In 2014, Washington passed a Bloomberg funded ballot measure requiring private firearm transfers to undergo background checks with the information stored in state databases. In 2015 Oregon passed similar legislation. Bloomberg financed organizations have met the filing requirements to put measures on the 2016 ballots in Nevada and Maine. Bloomberg has vowed to do the same here in Arizona. We are determined to stop him.

HB 2081 would prohibit checking with any federal or state database (e.g., NICS) on private property transfers.

HB 2224 is an AzCDL-requested bill that would prohibit the private transfer of firearms from being subject to additional state and local fees, taxes, liens, etc.

Together, HB 2081 and HB 2224 impede state and local government efforts to mandate background checks on the private transfer of firearms that are legal under federal law.

HB 2524 is an AzCDL-requested bill that would establish an interstate compact prohibiting member states from enacting firearm transfer requirements that are more restrictive than existing federal law. Current federal law has few limitations on intrastate private party firearm transfers between non-prohibited possessors. Interstate compacts are binding contracts between states that have the effect of federal law and cannot be undone by state legislation *or ballot measures*. The passage of this bill is kryptonite to the "universal background check" ballot measures that are being attempted. We expect to see a concerted effort from Bloomberg and even the Obama Administration to kill this bill. With your help we can stop them.

More Good Bills

HB 2300 is a "Second Amendment Preservation Act." It would ban state and local enforcement of any future federal firearms acts, laws, orders, regulations or rules. It would also prohibit taking action, or providing any state and local resources, to enforce or assist in the enforcement of future federal firearms measures.

HB 2338 is an AzCDL-requested bill that would prohibit the governing board of an educational institution from banning firearms on a public right of way.

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2016 Legislation

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Related to HB 2338 was HB 2072, a limited "Campus Carry" bill. HB 2072 failed to meet the February 19 committee hearing deadline and is dead for the session.

HB 2494 would allow for a tax credit for CCW training costs.

SB 1257 is an AzCDL-requested bill that would exempt CCW permit holders from being disarmed when entering state and local government controlled buildings and property unless everyone entering is screened for weapons.

SB 1266 would allow for injunctions, fines and civil suits when state agencies, counties and cities disregard state firearm preemption statutes.

SB 1452 would require Arizona to not recognize and ban enforcement of unlawful federal executive actions or orders that limit Second Amendment rights.

SB 1487 would require the Arizona Attorney General to investigate local ordinances that violate the Arizona Constitution or state law.

Bad Bills Stopped!

As in past sessions, several bills were filed attacking your right to keep an bear arms. Fortunately we have been able to derail these bills early in the session and prevent them from progressing.

HB 2011 and SB 1021 would have established a "public safety and violence prevention" committee to specifically investigate firearms ownership.

HB 2091, HCR 2007 and SB 1339 were three identical bills that would have made the private transfer of a firearm, including a temporary loan, a Class 5 Felony unless both the transferor (seller) and transferee (buyer) were screened via a NICS background check.

HB 2279 would have weakened Arizona's laws regarding the justification for the use of deadly force.

HB 2280 would have eliminated the Game and Fish Commission recommendation board. This would have paved the way for appointments of ideologues bent on ending hunting and fishing in Arizona.

HB 2607 would have made it a crime for not keeping your firearms locked away.

HB 2611 would have required confiscation of your firearms if a "mental health injunction" was filed against you at the request of a family member or peace officer. One of the indicators for being mentally unstable was if you had purchased a firearm in the last six months.

SB 1128 would have required domestic violence offenders to surrender their firearms to law enforcement. Due process and the discretion of the court would have been eliminated, and the offender would not have the opportunity to dispose of or transfer their property using any other means.

Gun Owner Registration Ballot Measure—it's coming

For several years AzCDL has successfully thwarted legislative efforts at backdoor gun owner registration under the guise of "universal background" checks on private firearm transfers. This year's bills (HB 2091, HCR 2007 and SB 1339) are clones of 4 identical bills we defeated last year.

These legislative efforts were little more than a dry run for a much larger attack we expect to see later this year via a Bloomberg financed "citizens initiative" ballot measure.

The "citizens initiative" bypasses the Legislative process. It was intended for direct democracy by citizens. In reality it has become a millionaire's play toy used for controlling an unsuspecting populace.

Bloomberg successfully used a ballot measure to get gun owner registration, disguised as "expanded background checks" passed into law in the state of Washington in 2014.

Bloomberg has already financed ballot measures on the 2016 ballots in Nevada and Maine. Furthermore, he has promised to do the same here in Arizona.

In Arizona, any subject can be put to popular vote via a ballot measure. Once initiated it cannot be stopped. Once passed it can only be overturned by a subsequent ballot measure, or the courts. *The Legislature cannot overturn a ballot measure.*

We expect Bloomberg's petition gathering to start later this year. The Arizona Constitution requires petition signatures of 10% of eligible voters to initiate a ballot measure. From there it's simply a matter of having enough money to persuade voters.

Derailing Bloomberg

While Bloomberg may not be prevented from getting gun owner registration on the Arizona ballot, the measure cannot exceed constitutional limits.

The U.S. Constitution allows for compacts between states. Interstate compacts supersede the state laws of the member states. They in effect act as federal law. HB 2524 proposes a state compact that sets a ceiling on state gun laws regarding transfers. It cannot be overridden by a ballot measure.

We will be calling on you to contact your legislators urging them to support HB 2524 as it progresses through the session. Can we count on you? Help us spread the word. Tell your friends. [Join AzCDL](#). [Renew your membership](#). [Volunteer at gun shows](#).

Get involved!



Arizona's Legislative Process



German Chancellor Otto von Bismarck is credited with stating that “Laws are like sausages, it is better not to see them made.”

The following is a synopsis of the Arizona legislative “sausage making” process, along with some insight into the legislative rules and procedures that can help or hinder a bill’s progress.

Article IV, Part I, Section I of the Arizona Constitution states that “the people reserve the power to propose laws...”

Every session, AzCDL brings proposed laws to legislators willing to sponsor them. If the political climate is right, and the sponsor is willing, the proposed idea gets introduced as a Bill and assigned a number.

Once a bill is filed, AzCDL’s lobbyists work with legislators in both chambers (House and Senate) getting co-sponsors. The greater the number of co-sponsors, the greater the likelihood the bill will succeed.

Once a bill is “introduced” and numbered in the originating chamber it goes through a couple of perfunctory “reads” by the full chamber then the Leadership of that chamber may assign it to a committee.

Session deadlines are set for bills to progress. If a bill does not get assigned to a committee it dies. Over a thousand bills are filed each session. Most get assigned to committees. The majority political party controls the process and the flow of legislation. Guess what would happen to firearms bills if pro-rights legislators were not in the majority? Remember this during the 2016 elections.

The committee assignment of a bill can facilitate or impede its progress. When a bill is not assigned to the usual committee, or it is assigned to multiple committees, it can be an indicator of the Leadership’s lack of support for the bill.

Bills must be heard by, and pass out of, committees in order to progress. Once assigned to a committee, the committee chair determines if a bill will ever get a hearing. Bills not heard by the session deadline do not advance.

Committee hearings present an opportunity for bills to be amended. Those



opposing a bill may try to add weakening amendments that distort or dilute the original intent. Proponents may offer amendments to broaden support for the bill.

Once a bill has survived the committee process, it is scheduled for a “Committee of the Whole” (COW) hearing, where all the legislators in the chamber can debate the merits of the bill and offer amendments.

With pro-rights firearms bills this usually means a lot of grandstanding, wailing and hand wringing by anti-rights legislators about the evils of “allowing” ordinary citizens the ability to exercise their Constitutionally guaranteed right to keep and bear arms. In short, they prefer disarmed subjects, not armed citizens.

After passing out of the COW, a bill must survive a final formal vote (Third Read) before it can leave the chamber. If a bill makes it this far, it’s only half the battle.

Once a bill passes out of the originating chamber (e.g., House), it is sent over to the other chamber (e.g., Senate) where the entire process plays out again.

Bills surviving unchanged through both chambers are sent to the Governor. If, for example, a House bill is amended by the Senate, there is a reconciliation process followed by further votes before the bill can be sent to the Governor.

During this process there are several opportunities for you to make a difference via our Legislative Action Center.

<http://cqcengage.com/azcdl/home>

Pressure from AzCDL members can help the Leadership “remember” to assign a bill to a committee; for a committee chair to “remember” to schedule a bill for a hearing; for committee members to realize that there is tremendous

grassroots support for a bill; and for your legislators and the Governor to understand that you want them to support a bill.

AzCDL lobbyists work at the Capitol to monitor legislation, testify at hearings, promote bills we support and call attention to bills we oppose. However it is your participation, contacting committee members and legislators, that has the biggest impact on the fate of proposed legislation.

AzCDL believes law-abiding citizens have to right to carry a firearm, openly or discreetly, wherever they have a right to be. That means, regardless of what our anti-rights opponents are going to propose, not only do we want to defeat their bad bills, we want to see more good bills filed and become law that promote our firearms freedoms.

In order to do this, we need *activists*, not just members. This session, not only are we pushing bills to further restore your right to keep and bear arms, we are fighting to derail what has happened in Washington, is happening in Nevada and Maine, and what will happen in Arizona—an attempt to achieve gun owner registration using the ballot measure process.

As the session progresses, we will be asking you to use our Legislative Action Center to send targeted, pre-written emails to legislators and the Governor. All it takes are a few mouse clicks to make a difference!

AzCDL now has over 13,000 members. That can make for one very loud voice at the Capitol—but only if everyone reading this commits to getting involved.

**Make a Difference.
Be an Activist!**

WHICH WOULD YOU RATHER USE TO DEFEND YOUR RIGHTS?



PROVE IT. GET ACTIVE.

Why Educating Anti-Rights People is Important

Trying to teach readers like yourself about why gun control is not a good thing, and why owning and carrying a gun is a good thing, is preaching to the choir. You already know these things. Instead what I am going to focus on is telling you why it is important for you to help educate Anti-Rights advocates and suggest some ways to go about doing this.

People like Michael Bloomberg and our current White House Administration are able to get more and more followers as they go along because they prey on the fears of the Anti-Rights people. Whether it is a real or an imagined fear, as purported by the largely Anti-Rights media, the fact remains that a lot of people are afraid of guns. Virtually all they hear about are the mass shootings and all of the bad things associated with guns. Nobody is bothering to explain to them the benefits of having guns and all the good things they can be used for.

As long as Mr. Bloomberg is able to reach these people first, the Anti-Rights movement will continue to surge forward. But, if more people take the time to educate these people about the positive aspects of guns, he and his minions will have fewer people to talk to. Education of the masses is the key here.

Apathy harms the pro-rights movement. Action must be taken now to prevent this.

For one thing, more people are being ramrodded into believing that even using guns for hunting is a bad idea. They firmly believe no animal should be killed, especially with firearms. These people should be taught about why hunting is actually a good thing because it thins out the population of animals who would otherwise starve to death from too much competition for their food. And, hunters, their families, and communities benefit from the meat, the hides and other useful things.

Now, on to the primary positive reason to own a gun, self-protection. While it is fine for law enforcement to feel that they should be the only ones allowed to defend themselves or others, the fact remains they cannot be everywhere at once. That means when somebody is confronted by another person aiming to harm or kill them, the likelihood of the police arriving in time to save them is practically zero. If the same person has a firearm, they can protect themselves or their loved ones right there and then.

Of course WE know that! However most Anti-Rights people do not! They

think that the police will magically show up to save them each and every time. That is not possible. People must be educated to that way of thinking. Maybe then they will begin to understand why Pro-Rights advocates are so passionate about this issue. They will then come to realize that we are not monsters, we merely want to have the option of defending ourselves from predators.

Perhaps readers such as yourself can help with the education of Anti-Rights people. Stop Michael Bloomberg before he starts in Arizona. See if you can get your local communities to allow firearms-safety education courses to be taught to the public, even if it must be for free. Explain all about why it is so important not to take away our Second Amendment rights. Tell them how useful firearms can be with the proper training.

If Bloomberg fails to get much of an audience, maybe he will be forced to go elsewhere! Think about this! Become part of a solution that is good for everyone!

Lisa Kopp

13,000 Members! Woo Hoo!

Congratulations to all our dedicated and hard working volunteers!

As this newsletter was being prepared our 13,000th membership application was being processed.

We've come a long way in eleven years. AzCDL was formed in 2005 when seven activists decided to [do something](#) about the loss of the right to keep and bear arms in Arizona. Our first meeting was in March. By June AzCDL was officially formed. Four of the original founders became AzCDL's first directors. That same year we experienced our first success at the legislature.

Five years later, in 2010, among many other [accomplishments](#), we were successful in achieving Constitutional Carry in Arizona. The right to carry openly or discreetly without begging for govern-



ment permission was restored. Because of our success, Arizona has become the "brass ring" for gun grabbers. Not only do we have Constitutional Carry, but Guns and Ammo magazine has three times in a row declared Arizona as the number one state for gun owners.

We are now the main target of Bloomberg's campaign to achieve [universal gun owner registration](#).

We can win the coming fight, but only with your involvement and activism.

AzCDL is fiercely independent. We are not affiliated with, nor do we receive any money from, any national organizations. No sugar daddies. No New York billionaires. Memberships and Individual donations are our only source of income.

If you are not a member, we urge you to [join AzCDL](#). The more members we have committed to making a difference, the greater AzCDL's impact at the Legislature. By working together and making our voices heard, not only can we show the bad guys that they don't stand a chance in Arizona, we can push through legislation that further restores