



Arizona Citizens Defense League

Protecting Your Freedom

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AzCDL's Membership Newsletter

May 2019

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2019 Legislative Review



The 2019 legislative session was the toughest we've encountered. In addition to having a Republican Governor with a history of being unsupportive of pro-rights firearms legislation, the 2018 mid-term elections resulted in thin Republican majorities in the Legislature. In the House, it takes only one Republican Representative to vote with the Democrats to kill a bill. In the Senate, only 2 Senators switching sides kills a bill. Unfortunately, there are too many Republican Representatives and Senators that are willing to oppose bills that restore and protect your right to keep and bear arms.

As the session is drawing to a close, only one pro-rights bill that AzCDL supported survived the legislative gauntlet and was signed by the Governor. That bill was SB 1291, which overturned the decades old law that made it a Class 4 Felony to possess nunchakus and classified them in the same category as bombs and rockets. The law was so broadly written that it's been a felony to possess a jump rope (two handles connected by a rope) for many decades. We're beginning to wonder if "how stupid can you get?" is viewed as a challenge by politicians.



Bad Bills Stopped

When will Republicans work as hard to support your rights as Democrats work to disarm you? While the Republicans avoided introducing or supporting legislation that restored and protected your right to keep and bear arms as much as a possible, the Democrats managed to get 20 bills introduced aimed at restricting or eliminating your rights. Fortunately, with the help of AzCDL members and supporters contacting their legislators, we were successful in stopping all of the following from progressing.

HB 2160 & SB 1508—Would have made it a Class 6 felony if a minor gets access to your firearm.

HB 2161 & SB 1318—Would have allowed for the "emergency" confiscations of your firearms, using low evidentiary standards with virtually no recourse or appeals, based on claims from disgruntled family members or school officials that you might be dangerous. One of the indicators for being "dangerous" was *recently* purchasing a firearm. "Family members" included anyone you have shared a household with during the last year.

HB 2247—Would have outlawed the mere possession of a bump stock or "any part, combination of parts, component, device, attachment or accessory that is designed or functions to accelerate the rate of fire of a semiautomatic rifle." That could include that aftermarket trigger you bought to smooth out your trigger press, since it can *function* to accelerate the rate of fire.

HB 2248, HCR 2012, SB 1507—A perennial favorite of the Democrats. These are identical bills that would have made it a Class 5 felony to transfer your personal property (your firearms) unless you surrender them to a Federal Firearms Licensee (FFL) and background checks are conducted on both you and the transferee. "Transfer" is broadly defined and could include

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2019 Legislative Session Review



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simply handing your firearm to a family member or friend. HCR 2012 was a proposed ballot measure.

HB 2249—Would have required the 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 indications for you being mentally ill was purchasing a firearm in the last six months.

HB 2384—Would have completely banned the possession or use of Tanerite or similar products by minors.

HB 2575—Would have added additional regulatory requirements for firearms dealers, which in the proposed law would include gunsmiths and businesses that make aftermarket parts. Among the 4 pages of additional onerous state regulations are:

- Criminalizing private firearms sales as “trafficking.”
- Limiting customer firearms purchases to one per month.
- Reporting anyone who buys multiple firearms in a 90-day period to law enforcement.
- Requiring a search of state and local databases in addition to NICS.
- Visual and audio recording of sales and maintaining a database of purchasers and the guns you buy.
- Performing background checks for private party transfers at gun shows.

HB 2577 & SB 1512—Aimed at weakening state firearms preemption laws. In particular they would have eliminated the statute that was instrumental in forcing Tucson to stop destroying seized and surrendered firearms in violation of state law.

HB 2749 & SB 1219—Would have greatly expanded the definition of do-

mestic violence to include several misdemeanors. Would have also expanded the category of prohibited possessors. Individuals under the expanded laws would be required to surrender their firearms to law enforcement or a federal firearms licensee (FFL) for *disposal*.

SB 1132—Would have eliminated the Game and Fish recommendation Board, setting the stage for the appointment of political ideologues determined to end hunting and fishing in Arizona.

SB 1148—Would have created a hotline for *anonymous* reporting of claims of “dangerous, violent or unlawful” activity involving schools and associated events and activities.

SB 1207—Would have nullified “no duty to retreat” in the statutes justifying the use of deadly force for self-defense.

SB 1262—Would have made it a crime to store your firearms “without using a lock and key or combination on the trigger of the firearm or placing the firearm in a security locked box or other container.” This would have applied even when you are home.

SB 1475—Would have established a state DNA database managed by the Department of Public Safety (DPS). Would have required DNA samples for many non-criminal activities like submitting fingerprints when obtaining your CCW permit.

As you can see, those who want to disarm you will never stop. Neither will we. AzCDL has an [excellent track record](#) of preventing bad bills, like those listed above, from becoming law. Since we started counting them in 2008, we have stopped over 100 anti-rights bills that would make Arizona more like California.

Governor Ducey’s Firearms Confiscation Proposal Delayed

In the final weeks of the 2018 Arizona Legislative session, at the behest of Governor Ducey, a bill was introduced

in the Senate to allow for “emergency” confiscation of your firearms, using low evidentiary standards with virtually no recourse or appeals, and based on unsubstantiated claims from disgruntled family members or school officials.

Thanks largely to AzCDL’s intervention, the Governor’s bill failed to pass out of the House before the end of the 2018 session. However, Governor Ducey repeatedly voiced his support for similar legislation to be introduced in the 2019 session. This year, Democrats filed their version of the Governor’s firearms confiscation proposal in two identical bills, HB 2161 and SB 1318. Thanks largely to AzCDL’s efforts, both bills failed to get traction and are dead for this session. The latest we’re hearing is that there was not enough support this session for the Governor’s firearms confiscation scheme to pass.

However, thanks to Republicans in the *U.S. Senate* that may soon change. Republican Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) has introduced Senate bill [S.7](#), which would grant federal money to states that pass firearms confiscation laws disguised as “Extreme Risk Protection Orders.” S. 7 is currently in the Senate Judiciary Committee, chaired by Republican Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) who supports the legislation. Given the support by Senate Republicans and a House controlled by Democrats, there is a strong likelihood that S. 7 will pass out of Congress and be sent to President Trump. Unfortunately, since the NRA has [voiced support](#) for this type of legislation, and President Trump looks to the NRA for advice, it’s likely that he would sign S.7.

It’s important to let your U.S. Senator know that you oppose S.7. We have drafted an email to send to your Arizona U.S. Senators urging them to oppose S.7 and any similar legislation. *Silence = Acceptance*. If they don’t hear from you, they’ll assume that you support firearms confiscations and will vote accordingly. Even if you feel they may not be listening, why make it easy for them? Let’s flood them with emails. Go to the link below:

<https://cqrcengage.com/azcdl/issues>

Then, click on the link that says:

[Contact your U.S. Senator](#)



“Team AzCDL” Returns To Front Sight



After too many years, “Team AZCDL” returned to Front Sight for our annual class outing, and did ourselves proud.

Almost two dozen of your fellow members showed up to take the 4 Day basic Defensive Handgun course, and posted one of the highest percentages of graduates the course has seen, including one of the three ‘Distinguished Graduates’ the class produced.

For those of you who haven’t been there in a while, there have been some changes: The kneeling and night fire courses have been gone for a while, as have the turning targets, but now so are the requirements for a straight-drop, OWB holster – more than one partici-

pant drew from IWB rigs, reflecting the way many of us actually carry. It showed, as the scores reflected people working from their comfort zone.

We were fortunate to have an outstanding instructor crew: Rangemaster Day Park and Instructors Gerald Cope and Frank Molthen (for those of you who haven’t submitted your evaluation email), and morale was certainly raised by the voluntary Saturday night steak dinner, which lasted long past the actual dining with good conversation and genuine fellowship.

If there was a downside, aside from the fact that some of our members were mis-assigned to random classes, it was

in what the Pro Shop has become: No more shelves of Front Sight T-shirts, no more tactical vests – and precious little available for the credits you’ve been accumulating. The only things available for your pro shop credits are 10 packs of the actual targets used and a small assortment of kydex holsters...but who goes to one of the premier firearms training centers for the Pro Shop? You can also buy ammo at their “Ammo Bunker” for competitive prices, which some may prefer to hauling up to 1000 rounds to and from.

The annual Front Sight Class Trip was one of AZCDL’s most popular events, and now that it’s back, we’re looking forward to seeing you in Nevada with us next year.

NOTE: If you were assigned to another range and did not receive your T-shirt, contact Duke at americanicon@cox.net.

Duke Schechter
AzCDL Director Emeritus



AzCDL’s 2019 Director Election



To promote continuity in leadership, the terms of office for AzCDL’s directors are staggered. This year, the director position held by Drake Mitchell is due to expire.

While Drake is seeking reelection, the nomination process is open to all members. All nominations will appear on the ballot. If there is only one nominee for a vacancy there will not be a balloting process.

If you are a Life member interested in running for either of these positions on the AzCDL Board of Directors, you may nominate yourself or be nominated by any other member.

If you are going to nominate someone else, you must provide a personal verification from the nominee, including the nominee’s signature and membership number, indicating they want to be on the ballot. Candidate biographies and/or statements are welcomed.

Mail all nomination requests to:

AzCDL Membership
P.O. Box 86256
Tucson, AZ 85754

You may also email nominations to treasurer@AzCDL.org. A readable, scanned image of the nominee’s personal verification document attached to an email may be considered acceptable if,

in the sole judgment of AzCDL’s Board of Directors, it can be verified as authentic.

All nominations must be received by AzCDL by midnight, Sunday, June 30, 2019. Any nomination received after June 30, 2019 will not be placed on the ballot.

If you include a candidate biography and/or a statement of why they/you should be elected, it must be limited to a single 8.5” x 11” page using standard margins and line spacing, and a font size equivalent to Arial 10. Any legitimate candidate statement timely received will be made available to members during the balloting process.

Our Legislature at Work

Why is it so hard to get good bills passed?

With the end of the legislative session, it seems a good time to look back on it and take stock of what has been accomplished for our right to keep and bear arms.

The session began with the hope that we could get some good bills through. We supported several, such as **HB 2257** which created a civil liability for establishing a so-called "gun free zone", **HB 2693** that removed the requirement to unload your gun when you had it inside a vehicle on school grounds, **SB 1291** which repealed the ban on nunchakus, and **SB 1292** that lowered the classification of certain "carry crimes". Additionally, **HCR 2005/SCR 1023** would require ballot measure signatures to be gathered from every legislative district in the state, so that so-called "statewide initiatives" would actually have to show public support across the state before they could make it onto the ballot. Clearly, there were some good bills available.

So how did these good bills fare?

HB 2257 was not even given a First Read until well after the committee hearing deadlines were past. When asked, Speaker of the House Rusty Bowers had his office tell us that the bill was not going to be moved.

HB 2693 died on the Senate Floor after passing the House, with GOP Senators Kate Brophy-McGee and Heather Carter voting "No", along with all the Democrats.

SB 1291 actually passed both chambers by large, bipartisan margins and was signed by the Governor. Only one Republican, Rep. Steve Pierce, voted against it.

SB 1292 was held from a floor vote by Senate GOP leadership. Our information was that Senators Brophy-McGee, Carter and Pratt were all going to be "No" votes, but Brophy-McGee and Carter both claimed otherwise to leadership. Nevertheless, no vote was held.

Neither **HCR 2005** nor **SCR 1023** ever got a floor vote.

So, what happened? Why did GOP leadership prevent many of these bills from moving? Why did certain GOP Senators vote against good, pro-rights bills? Perhaps we might know, if those legislators were willing to sit and talk with us, but they would not, despite the fact that some of them took the time to talk with the anti-rights groups March for Our Lives and Moms Demand Action. Funny how that works ...

As an example of the type of attitude we have to deal with, the following is a direct quote from an email to constituents from Rep. Steve Pierce on why he voted against SB 1291 ...

"I'm sending a notice out that was sent to hundreds of people that are members of the AZCDL, a small gun group which has followers in YAV GOP and not related to the NRA in anyway. They promoted one of the more nonsensical, least important bills I've ever seen to

legalize nunchucks. I doubt if any of you had this as your number one concern for the state! I was the only republican that voted no and when I was asked, I said it was a stupid waste of time by everyone, making NUNCHUCKS legal? There are so many important issues that need attention and we get something like this?"

It's interesting that Rep. Pierce feels this way. Apparently it's nonsensical to want to stop making felons out of people for owning a common martial arts tool, one that was only banned in such freedom-loving places as New York, California, Massachusetts ... and Arizona. Clearly some of Mr. Pierce's constituents were at least somewhat concerned about it, as our records indicate he received 130+ emails from his district. Maybe if we made lemonade consumption a Class 4 Felony instead of the state drink, he might find that more important.

Attitudes like this are not the only obstacle in the way of pro-rights bills, but they sure don't help any. So what's the solution?

Like the old saying goes, "If you want better laws, elect better lawmakers." And even though the next election cycle is still a year off, there's another applicable aphorism, "There is no time like the present." Clearly we have work to do ...

Dave Kopp
AzCDL President



16,000 Members! Woo Hoo!



Congratulations to all our dedicated and hard working volunteers!

As this was being written, AzCDL is on the cusp of recruiting our 16,000th member.

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 2005, 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 government permission was restored.

Because of our success, Guns and Ammo magazine has **six** times in a row declared Arizona as the number one state for gun owners.

Our job is not over. The more members we have committed to making a difference, the greater AzCDL's impact at the legislature.

If you are not a member, we urge you to [join AzCDL](#).