

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION

11250 WAPLES MILL ROAD

FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22030



NRA

January 25, 2022

House Committee on Judiciary
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633

Dear House Judiciary Committee Member:

On behalf of the National Rifle Association (NRA) and its members in Vermont, I am writing to express our opposition to Senate Bill 30. We testified against this bill in the Senate Judiciary Committee last year and continue to remain opposed.

This legislation is a “location” restriction, and there is no evidence that arbitrary boundaries enhance public safety or that there is currently a problem with respect to Vermont hospitals. Further, the committee has heard extensive testimony that any of the hypothetical situations offered are easily addressed by the unlawful trespass statute, V.S.A. §3705.

Proposed House amendments to S.30 make the bill even more objectionable. Expanding the default proceed timeframe on NICS-delayed checks from 3 days to 30 days is arbitrary and unnecessary. There has been no justification offered as to why the delay should be expanded tenfold. On the contrary, while the three-day allowance exists under federal law to clear up discrepancies, many of which are nothing more than the result of having a common name, the available data indicates that the vast majority of delays are resolved in three days. These individuals, at this point, are not prohibited persons, and they are being denied a constitutional right. Logistically, the 30 day extension is also problematic in that a NICS check is only valid for 30 days, and after this time period has lapsed, the check must be conducted again. This will have the effect of putting individuals in an infinite loop.

Ultimately, this bill is the very definition of a proverbial solution in search of a problem. It is not only unnecessary, but it also creates additional problems. For that reason, we must continue to oppose S.30, and we respectfully request that you vote against this legislation. If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at dgoens@nrahq.org, or 703-267-1223. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darin Goens".

Darin Goens
State Director, NRA-ILA