

Right to Keep and Bear Arms

“Elections have consequences” is an old political saying and it is very true. Sometimes the politicians tell you exactly what they will do if elected and sometimes they will say trite things like they stand for hope and change.

Last November in Virginia the Democrats running for the state legislature stated their exact intentions and that was to enact a wide range of gun control laws. The gun control crowd in VA had been held in check for years by the Republican majority in the state senate. But due to the changing demographics in the state the Democrats won majorities in the two houses of the legislature and had a Democrat governor and attorney general. What would the VA Democrats do now? Elections have consequences...Can this happen in TN?

Virginia Democrats Break Precedent, Ban Guns and Knives in State Capitol

U.S.A. —(Ammoland.com)- Virginia Democrats changed the rules of the General Assembly to ban guns and knives in the state capitol. Nearly all knives are banned as well as any item capable of launching a projectile. There is an exception for folding knives with a blade of less than 3 inches in length.

All people entering the capitol, with the exceptions of full-time, on duty, paid law enforcement officers and military personnel, who are conducting official business at the state capitol, are subject to the policy.

To enforce the policy, Capitol police are authorized to search and seize all people entering the building, with the exception of current members of the General Assembly. In practice, it is expected all people entering the building will have to go through metal detectors, with the exception of current legislators.

The rule change was passed on strict party lines. Democrats voted for the ban, Republicans voted against it.

The Democrats claim the ban is required for “public safety”, and that the Capitol Police recommended the ban.

“This is a recommendation from our Capitol Police who we trust every day, and who have kept us safe, and I trust their judgment,” House Majority Leader Charniele Herring told the Joint Rules Committee meeting.

Capitol Police Chief Col. Anthony Pike said the Capitol Police **had not** recommended the ban. From wfmz.com:

But Capitol Police Col. Anthony Pike said after the vote that he made no recommendations on whether guns should be banned, only on how to implement the ban Democrats wanted. The new policy will require that everyone entering the Capitol, except for lawmakers, must go through a metal detector. Read more: <https://www.ammoland.com/2020/01/virginia-democrats-break-precedent-ban-guns-and-knives-in-state-capitol/#ixzz6BD8tBXJZ>

Virginia: Recap Of The Senate Judiciary Committee Meeting On Monday, January 13, 2020

Virginia – -(AmmoLand.com)- Several thousand gun owners turned out at the temporary General Assembly Building on Monday, January 13th, 2020! The hearing room was divided into two areas – the larger area for gun-rights supporters and the other was a smaller area for gun-control supporters.

Gun owners filled up their side of the room quickly, while the gun controllers' side was still pretty empty. To make it look like they had more people and not look so pitiful, a search for gun-controllers in the waiting line outside the meeting room doors was conducted. Countless gun owners in the line were skipped over in the search for more gun-controllers. Whenever a gun controller was found, they were allowed to go into the meeting room, but no more gun owners were allowed in.

The first gun-control bill to pass out of committee was SB 69, a one-handgun a month bill, which reinstated the last version of that law before it was repealed. Senator Saslaw's version of that same bill, SB 22, was rolled into SB 69 and SB 69 was passed out by a partisan vote of 9 to 5. Republican senators Mark Obenshain and Ryan McDougle put up strong resistance, as did speakers who pointed out that the law had been a failure but to no avail.

Next up was SB 70, a Universal Background Check Bill. Saslaw's version of the same bill, SB 12, was rolled into SB 70. A substitute bill was then offered for SB 70, which made the background checks only apply to sales of guns and not transfers, which fixes the problems with letting a friend or family member use one of your guns without you being constantly present. However, it still strips an 18, 19, or 20 years old from being able to own a handgun, since a dealer cannot process a handgun purchased by federal law for someone that age. Also, a background check would have to be run on all sales, even sales to immediate family members, friends, etc.! SB 70 passed by a partisan vote of 9 to 5.

Senator Barker's Red Flag Law bill, SB 240, was eviscerated, as all the flaws and dangers of that bill were brought up by Republicans Obenshain, McDougle, and Chafin on the committee, as well as by the pro-gun speakers. None of the concerns were addressed and the bill was passed by a partisan vote of 9 to 5.

Finally, SB 615, SB 450, and SB 505, all of which allow localities to pass various gun-control ordinances, were rolled into a substitute version of SB 35, making SB 35 an omnibus bill that destroys preemption by allowing Virginia localities to create a confusing set of local gun-control laws. Again, speaker after speaker spoke against SB 35, but it passed by a partisan 9 to 5 vote.

Senate Bill 35, introduced by Senator Scott Surovell, would destroy Virginia's firearm preemption laws by allowing localities to create new "gun-free zones" in and around public buildings, parks, and permitted events such as farmer's markets. Criminals would ignore these restrictions, leaving law-abiding citizens unable to defend themselves and their loved ones.

Senate Bill 69, introduced by Senator Mamie Locke, commonly referred to as “one-gun-a-month,” would arbitrarily ration an individual’s right to lawfully purchase a handgun to once within 30 days.

Senate Bill 70, introduced by Senator Louise Lucas, would ban sales between private individuals without first paying fees and obtaining government permission. Firearm sales between friends, neighbors, or fellow hunters, would not be exempted. This proposal would have no impact on crime and is completely unenforceable.

The gun-control bills that passed out of the committee will now head to the Senate Floor to be voted on in a few days.

VA Dems Target Shooting Ranges

In their ongoing efforts to curtail and severely limit Virginians' Second Amendment rights, the commonwealth's Democrat lawmakers, led by Democrat Gov. Ralph Northam, have proposed and pre-filed a litany of gun-control bills. One of them is House Bill 567, which, if passed, would essentially make it unlawful for a private company to run an indoor shooting range in a building that employs 50 or more people.

H.R. 567 states:

It is unlawful to operate an indoor shooting range in any building not owned or leased by the Commonwealth or the federal government unless (i) fewer than 50 employees work in the building or (ii) (a) at least 90 percent of the users of the indoor shooting range are law-enforcement officers, as defined in § 9.1-101, or federal law-enforcement officers, (b) the indoor shooting range maintains a log of each user's name, phone number, address, and the law-enforcement agency where such user is employed, and (c) the indoor shooting range verifies each user's identity and address by requiring all users to present a government-issued photo-identification card.

The most obvious target of this clearly malicious legislation is the National Rifle Association, which maintains an indoor shooting range at its corporate headquarters in Fairfax. What possible constitutionally legitimate rationale is there for seeking to eliminate all large privately owned and operated indoor shooting ranges?

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exceptions; civil penalty.” Read more: <https://www.ammoland.com/2020/01/virginia-indoor-gun-range-bill-appears-especially-aimed-at-nra-out-of-spite/#ixzz6BD6FHqfg>

Virginia Second Amendment Sanctuaries

The situation in Virginia is heating up. In a combination of gerrymandering mandated by a state court and millions of dollars spent on a few local races by billionaires who hate the idea of an armed population, targeted advertising, organization by sympathizers of the Chinese communists, and apathy by the rest of Virginia voters, the Democrats have taken control of the Governorship and both the General assembly and the Virginia Senate, by rather slim margins.

These are not yesterday's Democrats. These Democrats have been specially selected for their antipathy toward the Virginia Constitution's limitations on government power, the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, and limits on government power, generally.

As a result, a plethora of bills, designed to severely restrict the exercise of Second Amendment rights, have been filed for the 2020 Virginia session.

They range from Universal Background Checks, to bans on semi-automatics and magazines, “red flag” laws, heavy restrictions on indoor and outdoor ranges, and firearms training.

In response to these proposed attacks on the exercise of Second Amendment rights, 91 of 95 Virginia counties have declared themselves “Second Amendment sanctuaries“.

The Culpeper County Sheriff, Scott Jenkins, has proposed a possible counter move. Deputizing thousands of Second Amendment Supporters would render them immune from several of the proposed laws. From a facebook post by Culpeper County Sheriff's office:

“I remain very optimistic that our General Assembly will not pass the proposed bills. Obviously, if passed, there are many of us willing to challenge these laws through the courts. In addition, if necessary, I plan to properly screen and deputize thousands of our law-abiding citizens to protect their constitutional right to own firearms.” -Sheriff Scott Jenkins

“A militia, when properly formed, are in fact the people themselves...and include all men capable of bearing arms.” (1788) -Richard Henry Lee

How effective would such a move be? It could be very effective, at least in the short term.

The counter would be for the Legislature to pass legislation limiting the powers of the county sheriffs. Political activists on the left have suggested California do away with the office of sheriff. Rural sheriffs are a bulwark of local power. That would be very difficult in Virginia. It would require a state constitutional amendment. However, the legislature could limit sheriff's power with the passage of a law.

It appears the appointment of large numbers of deputies, in Virginia Second Amendment sanctuary counties, is a viable and valid strategy, at least in the short term. 8 January 2020, by Dean Weingarten, from VCDL.org

January 14, 2020 TN Firearms Association Email

Tennessee Legislature returns to work under a Republican "super majority". After 9 years, will it FINALLY enact constitutional carry?

The Tennessee Legislature returns to work today. The good news is that already a new constitutional carry bill has been filed by Rep. Bruce Griffey and Sen. Joey Hensley! We are expecting other pro-2nd Amendment bills to be filed in the next few weeks.

However, we are also expecting an onslaught of "Red Flag" laws, "extreme risk protection order" laws, laws to make it easier to add veterans to the NICS/TICS databases, and other attacks on our rights as protected by the Second Amendment. We are expecting efforts by Michael Bloomberg's minions "Moms Demand Action" (a "red shirted" group operating under his entity "Evertown for Gun Safety") and other groups operating primarily in Tennessee who claim, probably falsely, that they are 2nd Amendment supporters but they only seek "reasonable" gun control measures. What balderdash!

What can you do? Well, first we need to build the army of patriots! Get everyone you know to sign up for the TFA's free legislative email reports and updates. It is a fact that if people know what the Legislature is trying to do - good or bad - they can influence it. Knowledge is critical.

Second, you should join TFA for at least \$35 per year and help financially support this mission. It is less than the cost of a box or two of ammo. Are your rights not worth that?

Third, you must help us prepare for the 2020 election cycle when we will need to support our existing pro-2nd Amendment legislators and also support candidates who are challenging those who are willing to infringe our rights. You can do this by supporting the TFA PAC which is the state PAC affiliated with TFA. It is a no-compromise PAC that is willing to fight against RINOs, liberals and progressives to improve the chances of making Tennessee a better, if not the best, sanctuary state for gun owners.

Don't wait! We need you to take action on all three issues today!

John Harris, Executive Director TFA

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