

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE MAY, 2021 as of May 31

Following is an overview of relevant legislative proposals introduced in the PA Legislature in the month of May. The legislature will reconvene June 7.

Stay involved.

The DMSC Legislative Committee

You should give special attention to two bills that saw movement this month. **HB659** (Constitutional Carry) and **HB979** (Strengthen Pre-emption) were voted out of the House Judicial Committee May 25 by a 14-11 vote, largely along party lines. That's a good thing, considering out of nearly 4,200 pieces of legislation brought forward by state lawmakers last session, more than 81.5 percent of them – about 3,428 bills – never left the initial committees from which they were introduced.

HB659 and HB979 (referred in March) both reached first consideration, that's another good thing. But then they were tabled. That's not a good thing. Gunowners of America issued a reminder that in the last session, both the House and Senate preemption bills stalled on the floor of their respective chambers. If you don't want that to happen this year, let your representative know to keep these bills moving and vote for them "as is" when the time comes--no weakened amendments.

Specifics on all the other listed bills, as well as the updated status of older bills introduced this session, are available at <https://pennsylvania.gunowners.org/legislation-2021-2022/>.

Senate Bill 431 This legislation would allow for the sale of antlerless deer hunting licenses through the Pennsylvania Game Commission's (PGC) Pennsylvania Automated Licensing System.

Senate Bill 624. The Right to Keep and Bear Arms Protection Act will prohibit the enforcement of any new federal restriction, prohibition or registration requirement for firearms, magazines and ammunition.

Senate Bill 632. Would require firearms to be checked in and safely stored at municipal buildings in the Commonwealth during visits to those buildings.

Senate Bill 670. This legislation will create the Violence Intervention Program (“VIP”), a competitive grant program through the PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency for municipalities disproportionately impacted by violence and community-based organizations that serve them.

Senate Bill 687. Would restore the 5-year mandatory minimum sentence for those that sell illegal drugs while in possession of a firearm.

Senate Bill 702. The legislation would prohibit the use of live animals or fowl for target trap shoots and block shoots. A trap shoot involves immediately launching a moving target and a block shoot involves a tethered or stationary target.

House Bill 659. Titled Constitutional Carry of a Firearm, this legislation will create a two-tiered system for the concealed carrying of firearms for lawful purposes in Pennsylvania.

House Bill 1491. This legislation will prohibit the Pennsylvania State Police from sharing any information relating to firearms purchases that occur in this Commonwealth with any individual or entity, including the federal government.