



Arizona Citizens Defense League

Protecting Your Freedom

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AzCDL's Membership Newsletter

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Legislative Session Underway



The 2015 Legislative session convened on Monday, January 12. This year we have a newly elected Republican Governor, and Republican majorities in the Senate (17-13) and House (36-24). Theoretically this should be a pro-rights majority but, as we've learned over the years, party affiliation is not always an indicator that our rights will be protected.

Over 1,000 bills have been filed this session with pro-rights firearms bills outnumbering bad bills. The following are 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](#).

The Good Bills

HB 2320 is an AzCDL-requested bill that would exempt CCW permit holders from being disarmed in Public (state and local government) establishments unless security measures (metal detectors, guards, etc.) are in place to screen everyone entering for weapons. This bill is similar to one that passed out of the Legislature in 2014 but was vetoed by Governor Brewer.

HB 2396 would remove the restrictions on the type of firearm a wildlife guide may carry.

HB 2399 would add hunter harassment to the list of crimes that can suspend or revoke a hunting license.

HB 2431 is AzCDL-requested legislation that provides an opportunity to derail the pending Bloomberg financed [gun owner registration](#) ballot measure we expect to see in the 2016 session. HB 2431 would establish an interstate compact that restricts Arizona, and other states adopting the compact, from enacting firearm transfer requirements exceeding current federal law. In essence it establishes a ceiling for state law. Compacts between states supersede individual state law.

HB 2509 is an AzCDL-requested bill that would add to the definition of Aggravated Assault the taking, or attempted taking, of a legally possessed firearm other than by law enforcement in the performance of their duties.

HB 2527 is an AzCDL-requested bill that would strengthen the state preemption of firearms laws by specifically prohibiting political subdivisions (state agencies, counties, cities, etc.) from regulating the transfer of firearms.

SB 1291 would allow for injunctions, fines and civil suits if a political subdivision violates state firearm preemption statutes.

SB 1330 would make future federal acts that violate the Second Amendment invalid in Arizona.

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The Bad Bills

HB 2371 would severely restrict the circumstances where a minor could receive or handle firearms.

HB 2473 would nullify “no duty to retreat” in the statutes justifying the use of deadly physical force.

HB 1202 is “gun control” disguised as noise control. The proposed law would allow local government to restrict noise that is detrimental to someone’s “well being” or that disturbs the “peace and quiet” of a neighborhood.

The Ugly Bills

In a typical legislative session we usually see more bills filed to strip you of your rights than to protect them. This year that number has dropped significantly, not because legislators have learned their lesson, but because they are joining ex-Mayor [Bloomberg’s orchestrated campaign to disarm you](#).

This year four bills, **HB 2118**, **HB 2601**, **HCR 2009** and **SB 1269** contain *identical language* calling for the criminalization of private firearm transfers (i.e., any exchange of a firearm) by requiring all such exchanges to be conducted through a federally licensed firearms dealer (FFL). Failure to do so would be a Class 5 Felony.

Under these proposed laws, if you wish to transfer a firearm, you would first need to surrender your firearm to an FFL who would treat the firearm as if it was an item in their inventory, entering all the information on it, *and you*, into his records. A federal background (NICS) check would be required for the transfer (buyer) to receive your firearm. If that background check failed, you as the transferor (seller) would be required to undergo a NICS background check to get YOUR gun back. If there was a

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problem with your background check, the dealer would be required to *confiscate* YOUR firearm and surrender it to a law enforcement agency.

In order for this proposed law to be enforceable, the obvious next step would be the establishment of a statewide database of all Arizona gun owners and the firearms they (you!) own. Don’t be fooled, these bills are a prelude to gun owner registration and eventual confiscation.

The Attack is Coming

Bloomberg’s puppets in Arizona are following the [game plan](#) that was used successfully in the state of Washington, and is currently being used in Nevada.

They start with attempts to criminalize private firearm transfers via legislation. If that fails, as it did in Washington and Nevada, they exploit a flaw in the state constitutions of many Western states, including Arizona, created by the Progressive (i.e., Socialist) movement of the early 20th Century—The “citizens initiative” ballot measure.

The initiative process 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.

With \$10 Million spent by Bloomberg and his billionaire buddies in Washington it was a slam dunk to get gun owner registration, disguised as “expanded background checks,” passed into law via a ballot measure last year. In contrast, national pro-rights groups spent a fraction of that.

In Nevada, the petition gathering for a ballot measure has already been accomplished. It will appear on their 2016 ballot.

The Arizona Ballot Measure

We expect the petition gathering for an Arizona gun owner registration ballot measure to start later this year or in 2016. The Arizona Constitution only 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.

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.

Derailing Bloomberg

For all practical purposes, in Arizona any issue cannot be prevented from getting on a ballot but they cannot exceed constitutional limits.

The U.S. Constitution allows for compacts between states. Interstate compacts supersede the state laws of the members states. They in effect act as federal law. HB 2431 proposes a state compact that sets a ceiling on state gun laws regarding transfers. We will be calling on your to [contact your legislators](#) urging them to support HB 2431 as it progresses through the session.

Let’s not forget the most obvious way to stop a ballot measure—by defeating it at the polls. There are probably more than 1 Million gun owners in Arizona, enough to defeat any attempt at taking our rights.

Together we CAN defeat any ballot measure. 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 usually assigns 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 firearms bills are not assigned to the usual committees or to multiple committees, it can be an indicator of the Leadership’s lack of support for a 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/>

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 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 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 committee members, legislators and the Governor. All it takes are a few mouse clicks to make a difference!

AzCDL started the 2015 session with over 11,000 members and we expect to soon have over 12,000 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!**



On January 29, 2015 AzCDL lost a brother patriot with the passing of Life Member Mark Spencer. He was only 56.

Odds are if you are reading this, you know Mark. He was AzCDL's "King of the Road," spending many of his weekends traveling from his home in Sierra Vista to recruit at gun shows throughout Arizona, from Bullhead City to Yuma, Willcox and all points in between. He also found opportunities to recruit on behalf of AzCDL in New Mexico and Nevada.

If there was an opportunity to spread AzCDL's message anywhere off the beaten path in Arizona, we could count on Mark to be there wearing a smile and a can-do attitude.

Mark Spencer



Mark became a member of the AzCDL family in 2010 and quickly jumped into the role of traveling event coordinator. During his time with us he managed to bring in over a thousand new members.

More importantly than what he accomplished on behalf of AzCDL, Mark was a very warm, caring and compassionate person, always willing to help others and work hard to make the world a better place.

Mark, an Air Force Veteran, is survived by his mother, two sisters, daughter and grandchildren.

We miss him but know he is in a better place.



Front Sight Spring Fling



You are invited to join AzCDL on our sixth annual outing to [Front Sight's Nevada facility](#) from March 27-31, 2015.

Front Sight is offering the following classes over that extended weekend of Friday March 27 to Monday March 30:

2 and 4 day Defensive Handgun
2 and 4 day Practical Rifle
2 and 4 day Tactical Shotgun
2 and 4 day Rope and Rappel

For those who attend either the 2 day or 4 day Defensive Pistol class, a multi-state CCW class is offered on Tuesday, March 31. This class will satisfy the Nevada CCW permit requirements.

Information about [all classes](#) can be found at Front Sight's website:

www.frontsight.com

Pick the class that fits your schedule and training preference. After making your course reservations, please contact Drake at

frontsightazcdl@gmail.com



Drake will work with Front Sight to ensure AzCDL participants train on the same ranges.

If you do not have a Front Sight membership or single class certificate, AzCDL has [all-inclusive Front Sight Diamond memberships](#), which allow you to attend all Front Sight classes as often as you want, available at our [online store](#) for a steeply *discounted* price (scroll to the bottom of the online store page). If you have not attended a Front Sight class this year, they will charge you an additional fee to perform a background check.

We have made special arrangements with two area hotels, the [Wine Ridge Resort](#) and the [Best Western](#) that offer discounted rates for AzCDL Front Sight

students. The [Saddle West](#), across the street from the Best Western, also offers discounted rates to Front Sight members. For more information, please contact [Drake](#).

Because Front Sight trains several thousand students every year, and the Spring months provide a better climate, classes and hotels fill up fast.

Each student is expected to make their own course and hotel reservations

To learn more about what to expect during your visit to Front Sight, along with information about gear to bring, ordering lunches, etc. please check out:

<https://www.frontsight.com/FirearmTraining/faq/>

AzCDL also maintains a [Yahoo! discussion group](#) for our Front Sight attendees' use. [Contact Drake](#) to join the group and post any questions or comments you may have about the upcoming classes.

[See you at Front Sight!](#)