

May 30, 2014



League of Women Voters®

Massachusetts

TIME FOR ACTION ON THE GUN BILL

House Speaker Robert DeLeo introduced the long-awaited gun control bill, H.4121, in the House May 27 and it includes most of the priorities of the League and the Massachusetts Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence.

Now it's time for League members to act to assure its passage before the end of the legislative session in July.

There are two immediate steps to take:

- Participate in an Action Day at the State House this **Tuesday, June 3**, by attending the joint committee hearing on the bill at noon, then talking to your legislators.
- Contact your Representative and Senator by telephone or email. You can be sure the folks against gun control will be on the phone to their legislators. All legislators need to hear from supporters of gun control.

Please email or telephone your Representative and Senator immediately and ask them to support this bill with all four provisions listed below and to also support amendments limiting bulk purchases of handguns. Emphasize the importance of passing this gun safety bill before the legislature adjourns. You can find the contact information for your legislator [here](#).

If you live outside of Interstate 495, it is particularly important to contact your two legislators, since the anti-gun-control lobby is strong in the more rural western and southeastern areas and its members will be taking action. A phone call is best.

Come to the State House Tuesday to support gun control!

The Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security will hold a hearing on the Speaker's bill at noon this Tuesday, June 3, in Gardner Auditorium at the State House. Instead of a rally, the Massachusetts Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence is asking supporters to be at the State House no later than 10:30 a.m. to clear security and get seats in the auditorium to provide a strong show of support for this gun control bill. We encourage League members to come for at least the first hour of the hearing.

Please register [here](#) so the coalition knows how many to expect. If you register, the coalition can make an appointment for you to talk to your Senator or Representative sometime after the first hour of the hearing. You can confirm that appointment with a coalition member at Gardner that morning.

We hope to see many of you at the State House Tuesday.

The House bill contains four of the five provisions that the Massachusetts Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence, of which LWVMA is a part, has been advocating for:

- Background checks on secondary gun sales, including for all private sales. Such

- sales would have to take place with a licensed firearms dealer present.
- Massachusetts coming into compliance with the National Instant Criminal Background Check system (NICS). There are provisions to protect the privacy of the submitted information.
 - **Expanded police chief discretion in issuing gun licenses for rifles and shotguns in addition to handguns.** This gives police chiefs discretion to not issue when there are known dangerousness issues.
 - Improved data collection about guns used in crimes and suicides, tracing the ownership history of all guns used in and recovered from crime scenes to help determine the source of these guns.

The bill does not include the Coalition's fifth priority, a limit on handgun purchases per month in order to minimize trafficking and straw purchases and reduce urban violence. We expect that provision to be introduced as an amendment. The bill also contains numerous provisions dealing with school safety and mental health issues.

This e-mail was sent to all members.

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133 Portland St, Boston, MA 02114 · 617.523.2999