



Testimony in support of  
H.2045/S.1388 An Act relative to crime gun data reporting and analysis  
Submitted to the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security  
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August 28, 2019

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts supports H.2045/S.1388 An Act relative to crime gun data reporting and analysis, which establishes a formal mechanism to require the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS) to analyze crime gun trace data held in Massachusetts. Such a report will help determine how crime guns are getting to our streets and what Massachusetts can do to stem the tide of illegal guns used in crimes.

EOPSS has been collecting crime gun trace data since enactment of the 2014 Massachusetts comprehensive gun reform legislation, and was required to analyze that data per a FY2018 budget amendment. Although that analysis was performed, it was quite limited in scope and failed to address many important areas. Moreover, the budget amendment was a one-time analysis. This bill requires a more thorough analysis of crime gun trace data every other year to stay on top of ever-changing patterns of gun trafficking.

Under this bill, EOPSS will be required to develop a biennial report analyzing the firearms trace data held by the firearms records bureau. The report “shall contain statistics related to firearms crimes, aggregate data on the source of firearms, the effectiveness of current reporting mechanisms for lost and stolen guns, and firearm purchase and sales patterns as they relate to firearms traced to crime, including an analysis of the number of guns traced to a crime that were originally purchased from each licensed gun dealer in the Commonwealth or purchased through a secondary private seller.” It will also help Massachusetts determine how many crime guns originated in multiple handgun sales. This bill establishing a bi-annual analysis of firearms records will offer analysis into whether or not more regulation of firearms sales are necessary.

The national League of Women Voters has stated that “the proliferation of handguns and semi-automatic assault weapons in the United States is a major health and safety threat to its citizens.”

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts, representing 47 local Leagues from Cape Cod to the Berkshires, believes this bill will provide important information to impact the proliferation of guns in the state, and we ask that you favorably report this bill out of committee. Thank you for your consideration.