

S.141 STATEHOUSE DISCUSSION – Dear Legislators:

RE: A State Level Felony / Possession GUN Prohibition – What happens in VT should stay in VT.

PLEASE do not allow our VT citizens to be subjected to draconian and inhuman FEDERAL laws regarding firearms possession. We have an opportunity -- as a Sovereign State -- to create (*our own*) "felon in possession" laws that do not require decades in prison for innocent mistakes or acts that lacked criminal intent.

FEDERAL ATF NICS Form #4473 (5300.9) Part I, Section A, [NO STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS]: 11c.: Have you ever been convicted in any court of a "felony", or *any other crime*, for which the judge **COULD HAVE** imprisoned you for more than one year, even if you received a shorter sentence including probation? Clearly – “flunking” a NICS test does NOT mean you are a violent felon. You might of stolen a pen from the post office.

PLEASE do NOT create laws that "Mirror" Draconian Federal laws that should never have been written in the first place.

It is my understanding that the final version of S.141 has serious problems and should be voted down. State enforcement over Federal is an idea supported by many gun owners and perhaps it can be re-introduced separately -- so every point can be considered with great care. Some of the original ideas were worthy.

Ideally, we want the Feds to stand down and allow us to handle these issues as we see fit. If you are inclined to support S.141 -- use this as an opportunity to create NON mirror State laws that focus on people who are actually a threat -- and NOT go down the road of mass criminalization. We civil libertarians do not want to see convictions without criminal intent nor do we EVER want to see mandatory minimum sentencing -- a vile practice that denies a trial by jury. A person not involved in interstate commerce should always face a VT court.

The benefits any "gun control" in VT are both *imaginary* and *irrelevant*. With the lowest gun murder rate in the US (FBI: 0.30/100K pop) *only MARS is safer than VT.*

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gun_violence_in_the_United_States_by_state [click on top of right-most column]

Gun owners are rallying against this bill for varying reasons -- but the most important one is the recognition of *Intellectual Dishonesty and Incrementalism*. VT "gun control" advocates are steadfast in denying that they are really *Gun Prohibitionists*. *Proving them wrong is trivial*. There is ZERO

correlation between what "gun control" groups ***posture*** as -- and the ACTUAL LEGISLATION that has been passed in NY, MA, CT, NJ, RI, etc. -- and proposed here.

SO -- in your tendency to support or oppose this act -- PLEASE try and understand that there is a **bigger** -- incrementalist -- picture here. (The Long Game.) The gun prohibitionists will not be packing up their tents or their camels if they get everything they want today. They have dug in for a long war to bring VT up to the Police State standards of some our neighbors. DO NOT LET THIS HAPPEN. I am,

Most sincerely yours;

Edward Jaffe, IES, AES

Bennington,

The Sovereign Republic of Vermont

<http://vtdigger.org/2013/05/19/jaffe-stop-the-war-on-guns/>

<http://vtdigger.org/2014/01/16/edward-jaffe-self-defense-rural-state/>