

Public Safety - Firearms Regulation

Sen. John Marty

[SF 3377](#)

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These gun safety bills would make our communities safer through responsible regulation of firearms. With growing fear of violent crime, it is time to act. Politicians who talk about being “tough on crime” while refusing to address gun violence are offering hollow rhetoric.

When opponents argue that firearms regulation is a *burden* on them and that we do not need gun regulation, they are essentially saying that there should be no regulation of a person seeking to acquire a gun for carjacking or armed robbery or murder until *after* they have committed their violent acts.

Like the regulations we put on motor vehicles and driving, it is reasonable to require training, background checks, and insurance, for gun owners. This legislation would implement a licensing and registration system for firearms, to make their ownership and possession safer and to prevent criminals and untrained people from obtaining and using them.

Licensure

License would require:

- Training and passage of a test
- Background check
- Insurance

To obtain, possess, or carry a firearm, one would need to obtain a license. A license would require training in firearms safety, knowledge of laws relating to firearms, safe storage, strategies for deescalating a potentially deadly situation, and passage of an exam on the training. It would also require a background check and liability insurance.

Registration

Firearms would be required to be registered, with reregistration at the time of transfer to a new owner.

Current gun owners could obtain a license and register firearms without the training requirement if they get their license and register guns within the first 18 months. If they fail to get a license and register firearms before that date, they would be required to complete the training.

Bans:

- “Ghost Guns”
- Undetectable Guns
- Large capacity ammunition magazines
- .50 caliber or larger guns

Ghost Guns are firearms that do not contain a serial number, so they cannot be traced after a crime. They are often sold as kits to be assembled at home. Undetectable guns are guns that cannot be detected by metal detectors. While federal law prohibits some undetectable firearms, there are loopholes in the law that need to be addressed.

Large capacity ammunition magazines are those that contain more than 10 rounds. .50 caliber firearms are far more powerful than most assault rifles.

Close the Loopholes in Minnesota's Background Check Law

Current law has big loopholes in the background check law, and many guns are purchased without any background check to ensure that the buyer is allowed to possess firearms. This legislation would require a background check to obtain a license, which would be required for purchase of a gun. No gun sales or transfers would be allowed to a person without a license.

Age limits

People under age 21 would be prohibited from possessing pistols, semi-automatic military style assault weapons, and some other firearms. Minors under 18 would have additional restrictions on gun possession.

Tightens up restrictions on who can carry a gun and where they can carry it

- Prohibits carrying guns in state and local public buildings (unless specifically authorized)
- Requires carrying of a gun to be concealed – prohibiting the open carrying of a gun to flaunt it or intimidate others.
- Requires more extensive training to get a permit
- Requires permit holder training in strategies for safely retreating; not escalating a potentially lethal encounter
- Requires liability insurance for carrying a gun
- Would not accept carry permits from other states (unless they meet all MN standards – including training, insurance, and background checks)
- Makes a crime of carrying gun in private establishments that ban guns, (currently it is only a \$25 fine, and only *if you are caught, asked to leave, and refuse to do so*)
- Gives shopping malls and other businesses more ability to ban guns
- Prohibits carrying of assault rifles in public places

Additional provisions:

- Establishes a crime of gun trafficking
- Limits purchases to no more than one gun per month
- Requires safe storage of firearms with a gun safe or a trigger lock
- Requires prompt reporting of lost or stolen firearms
- Establishes criminal penalties if guns are not safely stored & a child gains access
- Liability insurance required for possession of guns; also required for carrying a pistol
- Establishes database of license holders & firearms purchases/transfers (private data/available to law enforcement)
- Creates training & testing requirements for gun license and additional training & testing for a carry permit