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Marathon Day of Gun Bills ends with Partial Victory

Colorado's state capitol was filled with advocates from both sides of the gun debate. The testimony and ensuing discussions were lengthy and emotional, and in the end it was a split decision.

Gun Rights activists are intent on rolling back on the reforms adopted in 2013, and also loosening gun laws in a variety of ways. In the House State, Veterans and Military Affairs, those efforts were stymied. Defeated were:

- A bill to repeal the high capacity magazine ban instituted in response to the Aurora theater massacre, where over 70 individuals were mowed down (12 fatally) by a man wielding a firearm equipped with a 100-round drum magazine.
- A bill to institute a Stand Your Ground philosophy at business premises, setting a low bar for the use of deadly force in such settings.
- A bill to repeal the 2013 background check law, thereby making it easier for felons, domestic violence abusers, and the mentally ill to obtain lethal weapons.
- A flawed proposal to speed up the process of approving the transfer of machine guns and other dangerous/destructive devices and introducing a backdoor "shall approve" requirement.
- A bill to provide immunity to liability for businesses that allowed concealed carry on their premises, thereby introducing an immunity unknown for other business occurrences.

We applaud the majority of the House Committee that saw to the demise of these bills. On the other hand, we were disappointed that the Senate Judiciary committee saw to rewarding gun rights activists by their votes to repeal the 2013 background checks and allow all non-prohibited gun buyers over 21 to carry concealed weapons with no permit, no training and no background checks. Those two bills now head to the full senate, where we ask senators to take a broader view as to evaluate their decisions in the light of what does the bill do for public safety. In both cases: Nothing.

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