

House passes bill to keep guns from abusers

By PARIS ACHEN
Capital Bureau

SALEM — The Oregon House of Representatives passed a bill 37-to-23 Thursday to keep domestic abusers and stalkers from having firearms.

House Bill 4145 closes the so-called “boyfriend loophole,” or “intimate partner loophole,” in state law that omitted stalkers and domestic abusers who are not a spouse, former spouse, live-in partner or co-parent from the gun ban.

“I believe from the bottom of my heart this bill will save lives in Oregon,” said Rep. Jeff Barker, D-Aloha.

The bill now heads to the Senate for consideration.

Floor debate over the bill drew out emotional speeches and revelations about personal experiences from lawmakers. Barker, a former police officer, recounted responding to a gruesome scene in which a young mother had attempted to protect herself from her abuser and had her hand blown off before being killed.

Rep. Janeen Sollman, D-Hillsboro, wept as she talked about verbal and physical abuse she



Jaime Valdez/Portland Tribune

The Oregon House voted 37-to-23 Thursday to close the so-called “boyfriend loophole” in state gun law. “I believe from the bottom of my heart this bill will save lives in Oregon,” said Rep. Jeff Barker, D-Aloha.

experienced from an alcohol father.

Rep. Andy Olson, R-Albany, said he also had witnessed horrific domestic abuse during his former career as a police officer. Olson voted against the bill because, he said, it would not prevent abusers from obtaining guns illegally and killing or injuring others. The legislation also fails the address

the root cause of gun violence, he said.

“This bill doesn’t fix the systemic problems our state is experiencing; that is why I am going to vote no.”

The legislation also would require Oregon State Police to notify other law enforcement when they learn someone has tried to obtain a gun illegally.

Under existing law, only convicted abusers in domestic relationships, such as a spouse, former spouse, co-parent or live-in partner, are prohibited from having guns. The bill expands the ban to current and past intimate partners of all kinds and stalkers.

Barker said as a compromise with reluctant supporters of the bill, he and other sponsors agreed to remove a provision that would automatically dispossess an accused abuser or stalker of their guns if they missed one court hearing.

A study by the Oregon Department of Justice showed that more than 16 Oregonians were killed in nine separate domestic violence incidents between Dec. 25, 2016, and Jan. 16, 2017. Not all of the fatalities involved romantic relationships.

Women are more likely to be killed in domestic disputes when a gun is present in the home, Barker said.

Laws aimed at keeping guns from abusers have reduced homicides of intimate partners, according to recent research published in the American Journal of Epidemiology.

Oregon reports increase in deaths related to meth use

SALEM (AP) — Deaths connected to the use of methamphetamine have reached higher rates than previously recorded in Oregon, surpassing the death rates from heroin and nearly matching the rates from opioids, according to state figures.

The state recorded 141 meth-related deaths in 2016, rising from the 51 overdose deaths from meth recorded in 2012, according to numbers from the Oregon Health Authority.

During the same time frame, heroin-related deaths decreased from 124 to 107. Pharmaceutical and synthetic opioid overdoses dropped from 174 to 149, the *Statesman Journal* reported.

Numbers from the Oregon State Medical Examiner show 232 meth-related deaths in 2016 and 93 in 2012. It also recorded 124 heroin-related deaths in 2016 and 147 in 2012.

The discrepancy between the figures from the state agencies can be attributed to the interpretation of what constitutes a meth-related death. The health authority collected its data from death certificates.

As meth-related deaths have increased, so too has the number of convictions for meth possession. The Oregon Criminal Justice Commission recorded a steady rise in convictions from 2008 to 2016, according to its sentencing data.

The state had more than 2000 meth possession convictions in 2008, according to the commission. By 2015, that number soared to 3,665 convictions. The next year saw a slight decrease, dropping to 3,612 convictions.

Law enforcement agencies are looking to curb drug use by emphasizing treatment options like through drug courts.

Salem Police Lt. Dave Okada said agencies are working together to address the issue, but it’s going to take considerable combined effort to make a dent in the problem.

“We can’t arrest our way out of this,” Okada said. “It’s a societal issue, and what we really need to do is continue with education and prevention efforts.”

“We can’t arrest our way out of this.”

Dave Okada, Salem Police Lt.

Lawmakers move to ease scrubbing of racist provisions

By ANDREW SELSKY
Associated Press

SALEM — When Oregon lawmaker Julie Fahey and her husband bought a house, the deed said that only whites could live there unless the person was a domestic servant.

Across America, many home owners and buyers of older properties like Fahey are shocked to see racist exclusions remaining on deeds, decades after they were outlawed. Fahey researched how to remove the offensive language, and discovered that doing so would be complicated and expensive. Notice would have to be served to every person and institution with financial interest in the property and a request filed in court.

Fahey, a Democrat in the Oregon House of Representatives who is white, decided to sponsor a bill to make it easier for people to scrub the offensive language from their deeds. The measure unanimously sailed through Oregon’s House of Representatives on Wednesday, but not before it opened a window on how the racist provisions are hurtful, and

how they underscore housing inequalities that persist today.

Sen. Lew Frederick, an African-American representing Portland, told a hearing on the bill last week that the deed to his own home still has language that says he cannot live there.

“This is not enforced, but it’s quite a surprise to discover that I am illegal living in my own house,” Frederick said.

Rep. Mark Meek, who is a realtor and represents the Portland suburb of Oregon City, described “uncomfortable discussions” with clients that arise when racist exclusions are listed.

“I say it’s not enforceable, but the history of it and really the true ugliness of it (persists) even though we’re in a different era,” said Meek, a Latino. “I think it comes to a time where we don’t erase that history but ... we make a path for those citizens and those owners of those properties who say that’s no longer allowed here.”

The U.S. Supreme Court in 1948 made restrictions based on

race unenforceable. They were outlawed by the federal Fair Housing Act of 1968. Before, the Federal Housing Administration denied mortgages based upon race and ethnicity, a practice known as redlining that kept people who weren’t white from buying into more desirable areas where property values were rising.

California lawmakers passed a bill in 2009 to have racist covenants purged whenever property changes hands, but former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger vetoed it, noting the covenants are already void and raising concerns about counties raising fees to cover costs. California lets residents request to have the covenants redacted, and several other states have also taken measures to purge racist language from housing documents.

Still, these whites-only covenants remain on property deeds across the country, from South Carolina, to Missouri, to Washington state. A study by the

University of Washington found racial restrictions in scores of neighborhoods in Seattle and its suburbs.

“No person other than one of the Caucasian race shall be permitted to occupy any portion of any lot in said plat or any building thereon except a domestic servant actually employed by a Caucasian occupant of said lot or building,” says a restriction in Seattle’s Beacon Hill neighborhood.

Another covenant says: “No part of said property hereby conveyed shall ever be used or occupied by any Hebrew or by any person of the Ethiopian, Malay or any Asiatic Race.”

Fahey’s own deed for her house in the university town of Eugene, dated May 31, 1949, says only a “Caucasian” can use or occupy any building in the subdivision “except as domestics.”

Her bill, which goes before the Senate, would enable a homeowner to notify interested parties by certified or registered mail about the plan to scrub a racist covenant. The new process would ensure that no other fees would be imposed.



Fahey

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AccuWeather Forecast

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TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mainly cloudy and breezy	Mostly cloudy with a few showers	Snow and rain; breezy, colder	Very cold with clouds and sun	Sunshine, but cold

PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST

51°	42°	54°	35°	40°	17°	26°	10°	31°	10°
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HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST

56°	44°	57°	37°	44°	21°	32°	16°	36°	19°
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ALMANAC

PENDLETON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	46°	31°
Normals	47°	29°
Records	66° (1982)	-5° (1923)

PRECIPITATION
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.01"
Month to date 0.46"
Normal month to date 0.62"
Year to date 2.05"
Last year to date 2.36"
Normal year to date 2.00"

HERMISTON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	50°	28°
Normals	48°	29°
Records	63° (2016)	-8° (1936)

PRECIPITATION
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"
Month to date 0.48"
Normal month to date 0.52"
Year to date 1.58"
Last year to date 2.29"
Normal year to date 1.80"

SUN AND MOON

	First	Full	Last	New
	Feb 22	Mar 1	Mar 9	Mar 17

REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: Rain and drizzle across the north today; clouds and sun in central parts. Mostly sunny in the south.

Eastern and Central Oregon: Clouds and sun today with a shower during the afternoon; breezy across the north.

Western Washington: On-and-off rain and drizzle today with snow in the Cascades. Rain tonight.

Eastern Washington: Mostly cloudy today. A bit of snow in the mountains; a bit of snow and rain in the north and near the Idaho border.

Cascades: Clouds and sun today; a couple of flurries, but a little rain across the north.

Northern California: Plenty of sunshine today. Clear tonight. Sunny to partly cloudy tomorrow.

REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	50	43	r	48	37	r
Baker City	44	32	c	48	29	sh
Bend	47	35	pc	52	29	r
Brookings	56	43	s	52	39	c
Burns	43	26	pc	49	27	c
Enterprise	40	34	c	46	31	sh
Eugene	50	42	pc	52	35	r
Heppner	50	41	pc	53	33	sh
Hermiston	56	44	c	57	37	sh
John Day	46	37	pc	51	35	sh
Klamath Falls	52	27	s	52	28	pc
La Grande	43	37	c	48	33	sh
Meacham	41	36	c	46	30	sh
Medford	53	36	pc	56	34	r
Newport	49	44	sh	50	37	r
North Bend	52	45	pc	52	38	r
Ontario	49	32	pc	53	34	c
Pasco	56	40	c	57	35	c
Pendleton	51	42	c	54	35	sh
Portland	50	44	r	52	36	r
Redmond	48	32	pc	55	29	sn
Salem	52	44	r	53	36	r
Spokane	40	30	c	43	23	r
Ukiah	41	34	c	46	28	sh
Vancouver	49	45	r	51	38	r
Walla Walla	50	42	c	56	36	sh
Yakima	59	35	c	56	28	sh

WORLD CITIES

	Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	46	21	s	45	30	c
Hong Kong	74	64	pc	69	64	pc
Jerusalem	60	46	s	48	43	pc
London	49	36	pc	49	38	pc
Mexico City	78	49	pc	76	48	pc
Moscow	25	21	sn	26	22	sn
Paris	49	35	pc	47	31	pc
Rome	54	40	pc	56	45	c
Seoul	39	19	pc	34	21	s
Sydney	83	71	s	81	71	pc
Tokyo	47	38	pc	52	34	pc

WINDS

(in mph)	Today	Saturday
Boardman	WSW 12-25	WSW 12-25
Pendleton	WSW 10-20	WSW 12-25

UV INDEX TODAY

0 1 2 2 1 0

8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m.

0-2, Low 3-5, Moderate 6-7, High; 8-10, Very High; 11+, Extreme

The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

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NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.

Seattle 49/43, Bend 47/35, Brookings 56/43, Burns 43/26, Enterprise 40/34, Eugene 50/42, Heppner 50/41, Hermiston 56/44, John Day 46/37, Klamath Falls 52/27, La Grande 43/37, Meacham 41/36, Medford 53/36, Newport 49/44, North Bend 52/45, Ontario 49/32, Pasco 56/40, Pendleton 51/42, Portland 50/44, Redmond 48/32, Salem 52/44, Spokane 40/30, Ukiah 41/34, Vancouver 49/45, Walla Walla 50/42, Yakima 59/35, Seattle 49/43, Wenatchee 51/33, Spokane 40/30, Tacoma 49/42, Moses Lake 54/35, Pullman 40/34, Longview 48/44, Kennewick 57/42, Walla Walla 50/42, Lewiston 49/39, Astoria 50/43, Portland 50/44, The Dalles 54/42, Hermiston 56/44, Pendleton 40/34, Salem 52/44, Corvallis 51/43, Eugene 50/42, Bend 47/35, John Day 46/37, Ontario 49/32, Medford 53/36, Burns 43/26, Klamath Falls 52/27, Caldwell 49/34

NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	52	33	c	57	35	s
Atlanta	72	54	c	70	49	sh
Atlanta City	58	28	sh	42	36	pc
Baltimore	59	26	c	39	29	pc
Billings	33	15	pc	30	8	c
Birmingham	67	49	c	67	44	c
Boise	45	33	pc	50	34	c
Boston	48	24	sh	34	30	pc
Charleston, SC	80	58	pc	73	56	pc
Charleston, WV	60	30	r	46	33	r
Chicago	28	12	pc	35	20	sn
Cleveland	35	23	c	40	30	pc
Dallas	60	41	c	61	46	r
Denver	46	25	s	52	35	s
Detroit	33	17	pc	35	27	pc
El Paso	57	43	r	65	47	c
Fairbanks	17	0	pc	18	6	pc
Fargo	25	16	s	23	7	pc
Honolulu	80	67	pc	80	68	pc
Houston	76	55	sh	70	54	sh
Indianapolis	38	24	pc	40	27	sn
Jacksonville	79	58	pc	80	57	c
Kansas City	38	26	s	52	31	s
Las Vegas	62	44	c	68	45	c
Little Rock	58	36	s	50	36	r
Los Angeles	75	51	s	75	49	s
Louisville	51	31	r	44	34	r
Memphis	61	40	r	47	37	r
Miami	85	65	pc	85	68	s
Millwaukee	28	16	s	35	22	sn
Minneapolis	23	18	s	34	18	c
Nashville	64	39	r	48	36	r
New Orleans	80	60	pc	79	61	c
New York City	58	26	sh	37	32	pc
Oklahoma City	46	34	c	61	34	c
Omaha	31	25	s	43	27	s
Philadelphia	62	27	sh	40	33	pc
Phoenix	71	49	pc	74	52	pc