

Talking Points: Nash/Utke
Permitless Carry Bill (HF0188/SF0649)



SUMMARY OF THE BILL

This Permitless Carry bill will repeal Minnesota state statutes mandating background checks, gun safety training, and other permit requirements to carry loaded firearms of any sort in public places. A permit will be “optional.”

Although the bill’s authors claim that it still prevents prohibited individuals from carrying guns in public, by eliminating the criminal background check requirement to get a permit to carry, this bill makes it easy for **anyone** to carry any type of gun, including **semi-automatic assault rifles**, without having to prove they may legally do so. If passed, it will be impossible for law enforcement to PREVENT gun violence before it occurs by denying permits to dangerous individuals with histories of violence, lawlessness, or suicidal threats.

In addition, this bill defines “public places” as any governmental unit, as well a private, non-residential, non-business property that is regularly and frequently open to the public. This conflicts with current laws banning guns in schools, courthouses and other government buildings, and creates confusion about whether guns could be banned in schools, churches, synagogues, mosques, hospitals, college campuses and the State Fair grounds. Ironically, the bill specifically EXEMPTS gun shows, gun shops, gun ranges, and hunting lands from the definition of public places. *So it’s conceivable that guns could be banned at a gun range, but not an elementary school!*

WHY THIS BILL IS SO DANGEROUS

This bill will prevent local law enforcement officers from fulfilling their sworn duty to protect the communities they serve. Currently, individuals who want carry permits need to pass a criminal background check and be approved by local law enforcement. **Since 2006, over 4,300 Minnesotans have been denied the right to carry because of prior violent acts and suicidal threats.** These individuals were judged by local law enforcement to be too dangerous to carry guns in public--but If this bill passes, they will be able to do so. *Source: Bureau of Criminal Apprehension reports, 2006-2016.*

This bill will allow people with NO EXPERIENCE OR TRAINING to carry loaded guns in public places. Hunters need a firearms safety certificate and a permit to carry loaded guns in woodlands and empty fields in Minnesota, but this bill will **eliminate the training requirement** to carry a loaded gun in crowded public places. It also casts real confusion about where guns could and couldn’t be carried or banned in our state.

This bill represents a serious threat to law enforcement officers, who cannot possibly discern who is a “good guy with a gun” and who’s a “bad guy with a gun” during the few seconds they will have to respond to a lethal threat. If passed, this bill will force police officers to treat everyone they encounter as armed and dangerous.

This bill will NOT make Minnesota safer! Minnesota’s gun death rate is 6.6 per 100,000 people. The 15 states with permitless carry laws have an average gun death rate of 14.3 per 100,000 people -- twice Minnesota’s rate. NONE of those states has a lower gun death rate than Minnesota. *Source: The Henry J. Kaiser Foundation, State Health Facts, Number of Deaths Due to Injury by Firearms per 100,000 Population, 2014. Based on data provided by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.*

Our current permit to carry requirements are NOT onerous! According to reports by the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, between 2006-2016, 364,171 Minnesotans applied for carry permits and 359,830 were accepted. That’s an acceptance rate of 98.8%. **Only 1.2% of permit applications were denied, suspended, revoked, voided or cancelled, which added up to 4,341 people who are too dangerous to carry a gun!**

The cost of a permit to carry is NOT prohibitive. A \$100 permit lasting five years costs just **\$20 per year.**