



NEWS:

Bill Would Allow for the Seizure of Firearms

JUNE 19, 2017 – Second Amendment Rights Advocates are taking issue with a bill filed in the State House of Representatives this week.

[House Bill 222](#), sponsored by State Rep. David Bentz, D-Newark, would allow the Superior Court to issue a "lethal violence protection order" in cases where a family member or a law enforcement officer could show an individual poses a danger to himself/herself or others by owning, possessing, controlling, or purchasing a firearm.

According to the bill's synopsis, individuals on whom such an order was imposed would not be allowed to possess or control any firearms while it was in effect. Further, the order would "authorize law enforcement to search for and seize firearms in respondent's possession provided [the] petitioner can describe the type and location of said firearm with sufficient particularity."

The bill would allow a judge to issue the order via an emergency hearing, with a full hearing to follow within 10 days.

The protective order could last up to one year, with renewals possible. To have it terminated early, the respondent would have to provide "clear and convincing evidence" that he or she no longer posed a significant danger.

The National Rifle Association was quick to act, sending a message to its members urging them to lobby against the measure.

In the missive, the NRA took issue with the bill for its perceived lack of due process and infringement on individual rights. "This legislation is ripe for abuse," the group noted. "The mere insinuation that gun ownership makes you a danger to yourself or others is offensive and insulting."

The bill is currently pending action in the House Administration Committee.