

BILL WATCH – MARCH 15, 2019:

Bills on Guns, Voting, and Manufactured Homes Moving Through the General Assembly

House Bill 63

Sponsored: State Rep. Sean Lynn, D-Dover

**Released from committee on Wednesday
(3/13)**

This would mandate that the owners of firearms secure their weapons or risk being charged with an offense should one of their guns be involved in an accidental shooting or used in a crime by a minor or other "unauthorized person." Under the legislation, a gun owner could be charged with a class A or class B misdemeanor for a violation, depending on circumstances.

STATUS: Available to be placed on the House Agenda.

House Bill 46 (as amended)

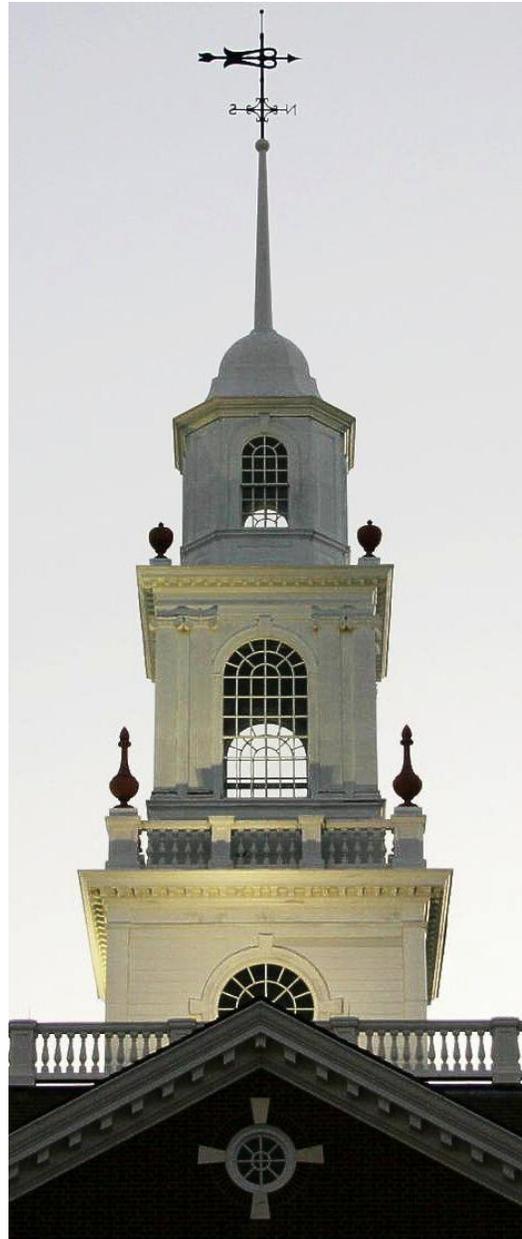
Sponsored: State Rep. John Kowalko, D-Newark

Passed the House Thursday, 23 to 15. All votes in support were from Democratic legislators.

The bill seeks to create the Delaware Manufactured Homeowner Attorney Fund, which would be funded with a 50-cent assessment, split between homeowners and community owners. Administered by the Department of Justice, the fund would be used to pay for legal representation for homeowners in disputes with community owners in matters including evictions; disputes over lease agreements; or challenges to a community rule or rent increase.

An amendment offered by State Rep. Lyndon Yearick, R-Camden-Wyoming, would have limited the free legal assistance to low and moderate income households and full-time community residents. It also sought to allow community owners to recover legal fees when they prevailed in a dispute. The amendment was defeated on a voice vote.

STATUS: To be assigned to a Senate committee for consideration.



[House Bill 39](#)

Sponsored: State Rep. John Viola, D-Newark

Released from committee on Wednesday (3/13)

This bill would allow citizens to register to vote on the same day as the election at the polling place. Proponents claim the bill will encourage voting. Opponents say it opens the door to fraud. In Delaware, a potential voter needs only to show a utility bill or bank statement with their home address to establish residency. An identical bill passed the House last year, 22 to 18, but died in a Senate committee.

STATUS: Available to be placed on the House Agenda.

[House Bill 38](#)

Sponsored: State Rep. David Bentz, D-Newark-Christiana

Released from committee on Wednesday (3/13)

This measure seeks to allow in-person early voting in Delaware beginning January 1, 2022. Early voting would be open for at least 10 days prior to the election. According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, 37 states have an apparatus for allowing any qualified voter to cast a ballot at a designated location prior to Election Day. An identical bill passed the House last year, 25 to 15, but died in the Senate.

STATUS: Available to be placed on the House Agenda.