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Legislature Approves Comprehensive Bill Protecting 2nd Amendment Rights

Firearms Rights Measure Moves to Governor's Desk

JEFFERSON CITY – Sen. Kevin Engler, R-Farmington, today announced the approval of [House Bill 2034](#), an omnibus bill ensuring Missourians' right to carry. The bill contains several provisions, including a measure originally introduced by Sen. Engler ([Senate Bill 1076](#)) protecting firearm ranges from noise violations.

"I am thrilled we were able to pass this legislation and take a stand for the Missouri's second amendment right to bear arms," said [Sen. Engler](#). "These provisions will make sure those who possess firearms will be able to do so without obstruction by the state."

Sen. Engler shepherded House Bill 2034's passage in the Senate. One of the main provisions in the legislation shields firearm range owners from civil and criminal liability for noise emission. The legislation became necessary after a shooting range in Columbia was forced to close after a longtime resident near the range unfairly chose to sue the range for the outrageous sum of \$800,000, which practically shut the range down.

House Bill 2034 also removes residency requirements for concealed carry permits. Under current law, new residents have to live in Missouri for six months before they can receive a permit. The new legislation waives the six month requirement for those who already had a valid permit from another state.

Another piece of the legislation closes the records of those who filed a permit-to-acquire with their county sheriff. Thanks to legislation passed last year, residents no longer have to file with their county sheriff. Any records now on file, which should be a matter of privacy and could be used by criminals, will only be available through a court order relating to criminal investigations.

Other provisions of House Bill 2034 include:

- Prohibits denying the sale of a firearm to a non-licensee, who is otherwise eligible to possess a firearm, based solely on the non-licensee having purchased a firearm that was later the subject of a trace request.
- Making it a Class C felony for any felon to possess any firearm. Current law is not as broad.
- Making clear what weapons are considered "explosive weapons." (Possession of such weapons is a Class C felony.)

"This bill is one of the most comprehensive 2nd amendment reforms that we have passed in recent years," Sen. Engler said. "This bill will be looked at as a model for other states in how to reform their gun laws to further protect the 2nd amendment."

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