Minnesota House Finance and Government Operations Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives

February 25th, 2026

Chair Freiberg, Chair Quam, and Members of the Committee,

The Minnesota Gun Owners Caucus, the trusted voice of Minnesota's gun owners to defend and restore the right to keep and bear arms, opposes House File HF3351.

**This proposed legislation presents considerable challenges for law-abiding gun owners who rely on their right to self-defense and have a reasonable expectation to anticipate what conduct is expected of them.**

The bill's implications are at odds with current practices and the practicalities of responsible firearms ownership.

- **Statewide Permit to Carry System:** Minnesota, like most states, operates under a statewide Permit to Carry system that establishes uniform standards for individuals exercising their right to carry firearms.

  This system ensures that permit holders can confidently navigate the state, understanding their rights and obligations without facing unexpected restrictions in different jurisdictions.
  - The proposed bill undermines this clarity, exposing permit holders to a complex mosaic of local ordinances that could lead to inadvertent legal violations and crimes as they travel from one municipality to another.

  - Such fragmentation in regulation could deter individuals from exercising their right to carry, impacting their ability to defend themselves and their families, particularly in areas where they may face differing restrictions on carry rights.

- **Uniform Standards for Public Safety:** Allowing counties, townships, and cities to set their own firearm restrictions disrupts the uniformity of gun laws in Minnesota, leading to confusion for gun owners and law enforcement, and undermines statewide efforts to promote responsible gun ownership and safety.

- **Implications for Legal Recourse:** Removing preemption will lead to litigation over local firearm ordinances, strain the legal system with disputes, and result in inconsistent court rulings that complicate legal and responsible gun ownership in Minnesota.

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**Permit Holders**
This legislation overlooks the considerable evidence indicating that permit-to-carry holders are notably more law-abiding than the general public, as substantiated by the latest Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension report. These individuals have been vetted, demonstrating their commitment to legal and responsible conduct, thereby distinguishing peaceable citizens from those who pose genuine threats to public safety.

**A practical example**
Our Chair, Bryan Strawser, lives in a Minneapolis suburb and drives approximately ten miles each day to his day job. In doing so, he drives through two counties and 5 different cities.

Along that same route, he may stop for coffee at Starbucks, shop at Target, get a car wash, pump gasoline, purchase groceries at Cub, drop off his children at their dance studio, and meet his wife for lunch.

Today, Bryan can confidently navigate those 7 different jurisdictions because of the uniformity of state firearms law and clearly understand his rights and obligations.

Removing preemption would lead to a patchwork of laws covering 7 different jurisdictions that could impact:

- The type of firearm he may carry or even possess in his home and office
- The scope of his permit to carry – where can he legally carry or not carry
- The size of the magazine he may possess in his home and office
- How firearms must be stored in his home and office
- And the list goes on

For these reasons, among many others, we urge you to oppose this bill.

On behalf of our members,

Bryan Strawser
Chair

Anna Leamy
Director, Government Relations & Advocacy

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