

## **Testimony in Support of SB 677 – Public Safety – Handgun Permits – Firearms Training Course**

As a firearms instructor who currently teaches all of the amended training requirements, I have significant concerns about mandated training programs. In practice, these requirements can become a “race to the bottom,” where some of the least-qualified instructors attempt to profit from mandatory coursework. For that reason, I believe broad, poorly structured mandates should generally be avoided.

That said, I do believe the core elements outlined in SB 677 are absolutely necessary as a foundation for anyone beginning the training required to carry a firearm for self-defense. The bill clearly identifies essential training components that would, in effect, disqualify many unqualified QHIC instructors from teaching. While removing instructors who lack proper certification may be challenging, I believe this can be addressed by allowing a reasonable transition period—such as one year—for current instructors to improve their knowledge, meet certification standards, and requalify.

I do have concerns regarding the renewal process for training and certification, as this is not clearly addressed in the bill. Clarification on renewal requirements would strengthen the legislation and ensure ongoing competency and accountability.

Overall, despite my reservations, I am able to give SB 677 a favorable report due to its emphasis on baseline training standards that promote responsible and informed firearm carry.

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