



## SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

Oregon State Legislature  
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### NEWS RELEASE

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#### **Oregon Firearms Safety Act approved in the Senate**

*SB 941 will help keep guns out of dangerous hands*

SALEM – The Senate approved legislation this morning that requires universal background checks for firearm transfers in the state. Senate Bill 941, the Oregon Firearm Safety Act, will require a criminal background check at a gun dealership for person-to-person sales, with reasonable exceptions for family members, law enforcement, and certain temporary transfers.

“This legislation will prevent felons from having easy access to guns by closing the loophole in Oregon’s 25-year old background check law for purchasing firearms,” said Senator Floyd Prozanski (D-Eugene), who carried the bill on the floor. “The ease with which felons can currently purchase guns on the internet is a serious threat to public safety. Senate Bill 941 is reasonable, well-vetted legislation that will help keep Oregon communities safe.”

Current Oregon law requires that all firearms sales at gun shows and gun dealers be completed with a criminal background check. SB 941 closes a loophole in current law that allows private sales to go unchecked. This change will help address the large market for gun sales that has developed on the internet without any consideration for public safety.

“I am proud to be a member of the Oregon Senate today,” said Senator Ginny Burdick (D-Portland), a chief sponsor of the bill and longtime advocate for gun safety. “By passing universal background checks, we are honoring the wishes of the overwhelming majority of Oregonians who want to prevent criminals and the dangerously mentally ill from getting easy access to guns.”

With passage of SB 941, Oregon will join seven states and the District of Columbia that require a background check for any firearms transfer. Washington State is the most recent addition to that list, with voters approving Initiative 594 in 2014.

“Right now in Oregon, it is alarmingly easy for a dangerous person to purchase a firearm through the internet or in a parking lot from a stranger. No questions asked,” said Senate Majority Leader Diane Rosenbaum (D-Portland). “SB 941 will help keep guns out of the hands of people who are a threat to others or themselves by ensuring that all Oregonians undergo the same background check when buying a gun.”

SB 941 will now go to the House of Representatives for consideration.

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