



February 28th, 2024

Re: House File 601 – Lost and stolen firearms required to be reported promptly to law enforcement

Members of the House Public Safety Finance and Policy 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 601.

Our opposition is grounded in the following challenges with the bill:

- This bill allows the State of Minnesota to criminalize the victim of a crime for failing to report that crime – something we do not do with any other victim of any other crime.
- Allows individuals who do not know of a burglary or theft within a subjective timeframe to be charged with a crime for not reporting a theft they were unaware of – such as firearms stolen while a homeowner was on vacation, for example.
- It contains a highly subjective standard of “should have known” that leaves too much space for interpretation that could lead to criminal charges for peaceable gun owners in Minnesota.

No person should be able to be charged with a crime when they had no criminal intent, did not act with willful recklessness, and could not have foreseen the criminal consequences of their victimization.

On behalf of our members,

A blue ink signature of Bryan Strawser.

Bryan Strawser
Chair

A black ink signature of Robert T. Doar.

Robert T. Doar
Senior Vice President, Government Relations

