



NEVADA FIREARMS COALITION

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February 26, 2019

Senator Nicole Cannizzaro, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Nevada State Senate

Dear Chair Cannizzaro;

The Nevada Firearms Coalition supports legislation that increases punishment for felony crimes in which a firearm is used. We believe that prosecution and punishment are the most effective means to reduce crimes involving firearms.

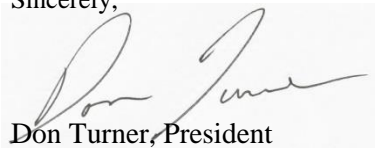
We have concerns with SB 144:

The law speaks to “crimes” not felonies. We are concerned that misdemeanors may be included in this new sentencing. Crimes such as “hunting without a license” or “fishing without a license” are examples of crimes where firearms may be involved, that do not rise to the punishments expected to be levied on felony convictions.

Care should also be taken that while the actual use of a firearm in the commission of certain crimes qualifies for sentencing enhancement; mere possession of a firearm during the commission of such crimes does not. The “fishing without a license” case cited above is a good example of what is meant here, in that the carrying or possession of a firearm while fishing has no bearing on the criminal activity, and should be irrelevant in determining punishment.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Don Turner, President

cc:

Dallas Harris
James Ohrenscha
Marilyn Dondero Loop
Melanie Scheible
Scott Hammond
Ira Hansen
Keith Pickard

The Nevada Firearms Coalition is dedicated to the safe use of firearms for self-defense, competition, recreation and hunting. We are the statewide Nevada grassroots organization representing the firearms owners of Nevada. Our membership includes individuals, gun clubs, community organizations, and retail firearm corporations and ranges. We are the State Association for the National Rifle Association, and a member of the National Shooting Sports Foundation, USA Shooting and the Civilian Marksman Program.