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Inside Track

Virginia Governor Vetoes 30 Gun-control Bills



(AP Images)

The Associated Press reported on March 26 that Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin vetoed 30 gun-control bills, signed into law two that have little consequence, and sent back six others with amendments for the state's Legislature to consider.

During Youngkin's first term as governor, both the House of Delegates and the Senate were quiescent on the issue of gun control. But once Democrats took control of both houses — by just one vote — the avalanche of anti-gun bills poured forth.

"I swore an oath to defend the Constitution of the United States of America and the Constitution of Virginia, and that absolutely includes protecting the right of law-abiding Virginians to keep and bear arms," Youngkin, a Republican, said in his March 26 news release announcing the vetoes.

One of the bills Youngkin signed into law will hold parents responsible for willfully allowing their child access to a firearm if they know the child poses a "credible" threat of violence, while the other bans the purchase or possession of an "auto sear" — a device that can turn a semiautomatic firearm into a fully automatic machine gun.

The bills that were vetoed include a ban on the sale, purchase, and possession of any semiautomatic firearm; restrictions on magazine capacities; extension of the three-day waiting period after gun purchases to five days; a ban on guns on college campuses; a requirement for citizens applying for a concealed-carry permit to provide their fingerprints; a prohibition on selling guns from a home less than 1½ miles from an elementary or middle school; the elimination of certain private gun-training programs in favor of a state-operated one; requiring that all firearms at home be kept in a locked container when there is a child present; and prohibiting the possession of a firearm within 100 feet of a polling place, up from the current limit of 40 feet.

— *Bob Adelman*



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Ski Events Canceled Because of Extreme Weather



(Kemter/iStock/Getty Images Plus)

According to a March 24 article by The Associated Press, Swiss skier Marco Odermatt was declared the winner of the 2024 Alpine Ski World Cup, edging out Cyprien Sarrazin of France, even though the Men's Downhill event, the final run of the Alpine Ski World Cup championships in Saalbach, Austria, had to be called off because of extreme wind and snow. The start of the event had already been pushed back several times as organizers worked to get the course into reasonable shape, and eventually event officials called it off. The International Ski and Snowboard Federation said the severe weather conditions put the athletes in danger.

Both of the top racers took the odd end to the season in stride.

"For sure it's very strange to win ... after such a tight battle with Cyprien," said Odermatt. "We both would have been ready for every decision. We saw it on the inspection. I'm not sure safety can be guaranteed."

"For safety it was a good decision, so there is no problem," said Sarrazin. "I wanted to have a fair race and a safe race and that's how it is. We will enjoy tonight because it was an amazing season."

In spite of UN Secretary-General António Guterres' claim that "the era of global warming has arrived," and other experts assuring us that plentiful snow and peak ski seasons are a thing of the past, this isn't the only event of the Alpine ski season that has had to be canceled because of too much snow. Heavy snow forced the cancellation of a women's event at St. Moritz in December. Also canceled due to snow and wind was an event scheduled to be run on the Matterhorn in November, and heavy snow forced the cancellation of a women's World Cup event in Italy at Val di Fassa in February.

—James Murphy

New York Rescinds Article V Convention Applications



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(marcusamelia/iStock/Getty Images Plus)

In a victory for the U.S. Constitution against efforts to radically change it, New York has rescinded all its applications for an Article V constitutional convention (Con-Con).

New York's Spectrum News Albany reported on March 20 that the State Assembly passed Senate Resolution No. 1460 (B1460) to rescind all of the state's extant (or "live") Con-Con applications, declaring,

The Legislature does hereby rescind, repeal, cancel, nullify, and supersede, any and all prior applications by the Legislature to the Congress of the United States of America to call a Constitutional Convention to propose amendments to the Constitution of the United States pursuant to the terms of Article V of the Constitution of the United States of America, regardless of when and regardless of whether such applications were for a more limited convention to propose one or more amendments regarding one or more specific subjects and purposes or for a general convention to propose an unlimited number of amendments upon an unlimited number of subjects, whether or not the calls are confirmed by the historical records maintained by the State or the Library of Congress.

One of the applications rescinded is the 1789 joint resolution "calling broadly for amendments to the Constitution to promote the common interests and secure the great and unalienable rights of mankind." That 1789 call for a Bill of Rights is important, as supporters of a Balanced Budget Amendment (BBA) have attempted to aggregate it and other non-BBA applications with those applying for a BBA convention.

New York State Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie (D-Bronx) and Assemblyman Ken Zebrowski (D-Clarkstown) praised the resolution's passage, stating, "Definitively rescinding all previous calls for a constitutional convention will keep those working in bad faith from using resolutions passed in a different time and different context to alter the course of our country and our Constitution."

— Peter Rykowski



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FDA to Delete Anti-ivermectin Posts in Lawsuit Settlement



(twitter.com/US_FDA)

Three years after launching a crusade against ivermectin as a treatment for Covid-19, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) agreed to remove online content disparaging the drug as intended only for livestock.

On March 21, the FDA reached a settlement in a lawsuit brought in June 2022 by three physicians alleging that the agency had overstepped its authority by advising patients not to use a particular treatment.

Newsweek reported on March 22 that, according to the settlement, “the FDA will retire a Consumer update titled, ‘Why You Should Not Use Ivermectin to Treat or Prevent COVID-19.’ The FDA also will delete and not republish posts to Twitter (now X), LinkedIn and Facebook that read: ‘You are not a horse. Your [sic] are not a cow. Seriously, y’all. Stop it.’ Also, it will delete and not republish an Instagram post reading: ‘You are not a horse. Stop it with the #ivermectin. It’s not authorized for treating #COVID,’ as well as a Twitter post that reads, ‘Hold your horses, y’all. Ivermectin may be trending, but it isn’t authorized or approved to treat COVID-19.’”

The FDA had previously deleted from its website a “Frequently Asked Questions” page on ivermectin that the doctors had also challenged.

Apparently it was the likelihood of losing an even more protracted legal battle that led the FDA to settle the case, as in a statement to *Newsweek* the agency said that the “FDA has not admitted any violation of law or any wrongdoing, disagrees with the plaintiffs’ allegation that the agency exceeded its authority in issuing the statements challenged in the lawsuit, and stands by its authority to communicate with the public regarding the products it regulates.” It also reiterated its disapproval of ivermectin for use in treating Covid-19.

— *Michael Tennant*



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