

School Safety/Fire-Arms/Mental Health continued.....

Across the rotunda, the Senate Rules committee voted 9-4 for **SPB 7024** to raise the legal age for buying a gun from 18 to 21 and enhance laws to prevent mentally impaired access to guns. However, the committee voted 7-6 an amendment that would have defined certain semi-automatic rifles and banned their sale and possession.....the top priority of students and gun activists.

The proposal is a collaborative response from House and Senate Republican leaders and was the first bill approved by a Senate Republican-led committee since the 1990's that curbs gun rights.

- It raises the age from 18 to 21 to purchase a gun;
- imposes a 3-day waiting period for all gun purchases;
- requires a background check;

However, under current law, age limits or background checks would not apply to anyone purchasing a gun from a private seller, online or at an unauthorized gun show.

- SPB 7024 significant changes include:
- Law enforcement could temporarily seize a firearm or ammunition from anyone declared a "potential threat to themselves or others."
- Increases the legal age 18 to 21 to purchase a firearm, exceptions include allowing anyone with a concealed weapons permit or who has completed a certified hunting training program; any military, law enforcement, or correctional officers are exempt from age limits for semi-automatic rifles.
- Bump stocks to raise the firepower of a semi-automatic weapon to match an automatic weapon would be banned;
- Increase school resource officers to close the gap that now funds only 1,500 resource officers for 3,800 schools.
- Create a commission to investigate the Parkland shooting and come back next year to make recommendations.

However, both the House and Senate bills include a plan to allow schools to opt into allowing designated teachers to carry firearms, if they are deputized and complete law enforcement training. **House Speaker Designate Jose Oliva** says it's part of a "school marshal program."