

VALERIE J. LONGHURST
Majority Leader
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
15th District



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE OF DELAWARE
411 LEGISLATIVE AVENUE
DOVER, DELAWARE 19901

COMMITTEES
Administration, Chair
Ethics, Chair
House Rules, Chair
Gaming and Pari-Mutuels
Legislative Council
Manufactured Housing

House Administration Committee Meeting Minutes

6.7.23

This committee meeting has been recorded and may be accessed via legis.delaware.gov

Chair Longhurst called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

Members present included Chair Longhurst, Vice Chair Minor-Brown, Speaker Schwartzkopf, and Reps. Ramone and Yearick. For a list of guests present please see the attendance list below.

Chair Longhurst introduced **HB 172 AN ACT TO AMEND THE CHARTER OF THE TOWN OF LAUREL.**

Chair Longhurst recognized Rep. Dukes, the prime sponsor of the bill, to present the legislation.

Rep. Dukes stated that this bill would update language in the town charter of Laurel regarding the levying of taxes which has not been updated in more than 30 years. This would increase the maximum amount of taxes the town can collect from \$500,000 to \$2,500,000.

Chair Longhurst opened the floor for public comment.

A motion was made by Rep. Ramone and seconded by Rep. Yearick to release the bill from committee, motion carried. Yes=4 (Chair Longhurst, Speaker Schwartzkopf, and Reps. Ramone and Yearick); No=0; Absent=1 (Vice Chair Minor-Brown). The bill was released from the committee with a F=2, M=3, U=0 vote.

Chair Longhurst introduced **HB 164 AN ACT TO AMEND THE CHARTER OF THE TOWN OF DELMAR.**

Chair Longhurst recognized Rep. Dukes, the prime sponsor of the bill, to present the legislation.

Rep. Dukes stated that this bill would update language in the town charter of Delmar regarding the levying of taxes by increasing the maximum amount of taxes the town can collect from \$1,000,000 to \$2,500,000.

Chair Longhurst opened the floor for public comment.

A motion was made by Rep. Yearick and seconded by Speaker Schwartzkopf to release the bill from committee, motion carried. Yes=4 (Chair Longhurst, and Speaker Schwartzkopf, and Reps. Ramone and Yearick); No=0; Absent=1 (Vice Chair Minor-Brown). The bill was released from the committee with a F=2, M=3, U=0 vote.

Chair Longhurst introduced **HB 201 AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 11 OF THE**

DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO POSSESSION OF A FIREARM IN A SAFE SCHOOL AND RECREATION ZONE.

Chair Longhurst recognized Speaker Schwartzkopf, the prime sponsor of the bill, to present the legislation.

Speaker Schwartzkopf stated that under the current language of the Delaware Code an individual is legally allowed to possess a firearm on school grounds, but it does not become a crime until the individual enters the school building with the firearm. He stated that this loophole prevents school resource officers and other law enforcement officers from confronting an individual with the intent of committing a school shooting until the individual has entered the building. Speaker Schwartzkopf stated that this bill would make it a crime to possess a firearm in a Safe School and Recreation Zone. The bill provides exemptions for law enforcement officers and active-duty members of the armed forces, as well as individuals who possess a concealed carry permit but only if the firearm is securely stored in a vehicle. Speaker Schwartzkopf also stated that he would be introducing an amendment to further clarify the list of exempted individuals.

Chair Longhurst thanked Speaker Schwartzkopf for introducing the legislation and noted that some Delaware schools have had issues with firearms on school grounds in recent years.

Rep. Yearick asked if there are gun-free zones around schools similar to the drug-free zones that currently exist.

Speaker Schwartzkopf stated that under the current language of the Delaware Code individuals are legally allowed to carry firearms on school grounds, but it does not become a criminal offense until they enter the school building and the gun is fired.

Rep. Yearick asked if he would be able to carry a firearm into a school.

Speaker Schwartzkopf clarified that Rep. Yearick could carry a firearm into a school as long as he does not fire it.

Rep. Ramone asked if the exemptions for concealed carry permit holders would allow them to remove the firearm from a vehicle if the firearm remains in a holster.

Speaker Schwartzkopf clarified that that would not be permitted under the legislation. He also noted that the federal definition of school zones affected the language of this bill due to the proximity of schools in Wilmington to public streets and sidewalks.

Chair Longhurst opened the floor for public comment.

Rick Armitage, National Rifle Association, spoke in opposition to the bill and raised concerns that a class E felony is too severe of a punishment. He also raised concerns that an individual would not be able to carry a firearm in the City of Newark due to the amount of property that the University of Delaware owns, making most of the city a school zone.

Jeff Hague, Delaware State Sportsman Association, raised concerns that an individual driving past a school building with an unsecured firearm in their car would be unknowingly committing a crime.

John Weber, National Rifle Association, raised concerns that an individual who lives within 1000 feet of a school would be inadvertently committing a crime by transporting a firearm from their home to their car.

Mara Gorman, Moms Demand Action, spoke in support of the legislation and noted that firearms are the leading cause of death for children and teens in Delaware. She also noted that there have been several instances of guns being fired on school grounds in Delaware in 2023 which have disrupted students' education.

Traci Murphy, Delaware Coalition Against Gun Violence, stated that children are unable to learn when they feel scared or unsafe due to gun violence in schools.

Allison Anderman, Giffords Law Center, spoke in support of the legislation and noted that armed civilians increase the danger and potential for gun violence.

Denice Marks, Brady Delaware, noted that gun violence is the leading cause of death for children in the United States and stated that legislators must do everything possible to protect children from gun violence.

Brent Burdge raised concerns that requiring civilians to lock firearms in their car while attending events on school grounds and the lack of armed security at these events increases the potential danger for an individual to commit a mass shooting at one of these events.

Speaker Schwartzkopf clarified that this legislation expands the law to cover adults who possess firearms on school grounds as juveniles are already able to be charged for the possession of firearms in school. He also stated that his amendment would address the concerns raised about an individual driving past a school with an unsecured firearm in the car.

Rep. Ramone clarified that the legislation would not apply to college and university campuses.

Rep. Yearick asked how the law would apply to facilities owned by a university that is rented by a public school for a sporting event.

Speaker Schwartzkopf clarified that the same restrictions would apply to any facility that is rented for a school-sponsored event.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Minor-Brown and seconded by Chair Longhurst to release the bill from committee, motion carried. Yes=3 (Chair Longhurst, Vice Chair Minor-Brown, and Speaker Schwartzkopf); No=2 (Reps. Ramone and Yearick); Absent=0. The bill was released with a F=1 M=2 U=0 vote.

Chair Longhurst introduced **HB 202 AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 11 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO THE POSSESSION OF A FIREARM AT A POLLING PLACE.**

Chair Longhurst stated that this bill would limit the individuals who may possess a firearm at a polling place on an election day to law enforcement officers, commissioned security guards, constables, and active-duty service members. The bill applies to all in-person election sites on election day and any location designated as an early-voting site.

Chair Longhurst opened the floor for public comment.

Rick Armitage, National Rifle Association, asked for clarification on the bill regarding the restrictions on the possession of a firearm on a sidewalk or in a parking lot outside of a polling place.

Chair Longhurst recognized Natalie Woloshin, attorney for the House majority caucus, to clarify the language of the bill.

Natalie Woloshin clarified that individuals would still be able to possess a firearm outside of the polling place.

Speaker Schwartzkopf further clarified that if HB 201 is enacted, these restrictions would apply to a sidewalk or parking lot if the polling place is located at a school.

Jeff Hague raised concerns about the possibility of an individual accidentally violating the law by driving past a polling place with a firearm in their vehicle. He also raised concerns about the broad definition of a firearm in the Delaware Code.

John Weber spoke in opposition to the bill and stated that the property owners should be able to determine firearm regulations for polling places located on private property.

Mara Gorman spoke in support of the legislation and noted that presence of firearms in a polling place may intimidate voters and prevent them from participating in an election.

Denise Marks spoke in support of the bill to prevent voters from feeling intimidated at a polling place.

Traci Murphy noted that the Supreme Court of the United States and the laws of every state and the District of Columbia recognize the intimidating effect of firearms. She stated that this legislation should be passed in order to protect voters from firearm intimidation at polling places.

Brent Burdge noted that federal law provides exemptions for concealed carry permit holders and asked the bill sponsor to include a similar provision in this bill.

Allison Anderman spoke in support of the bill and discussed instances of armed extremist groups patrolling polling locations throughout the country during the 2022 elections.

A motion was made by Speaker Schwartzkopf and seconded by Vice Chair Minor-Brown to release the bill from committee, motion carried. Yes=3 (Chair Longhurst, Vice Chair Minor-Brown, and Speaker Schwartzkopf); No=1 (Rep. Yearick); Absent=1 (Rep. Ramone). The bill was released with a F=0 M=3 U=0 vote.

Chair Longhurst adjourned the meeting at 12:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Justin Dougherty

List of Attendees:

- Rep. Tim Dukes
- Natalie Woloshin, attorney for the House majority caucus
- Rick Armitage, National Rifle Association
- Jeff Hague, Delaware State Sportsman Association
- John Weber, National Rifle Association
- Mara Gorman, Moms Demand Action
- Denise Marks, Brady Delaware
- Traci Murphy, Delaware Coalition Against Gun Violence
- Allison Anderman, Giffords Law Center
- Brent Burdge

Good afternoon,

Can I please submit the public comment below in support of HB 201 (House Admin)?

Thank you,

Taylor Hawk

HB 201 Public Comment

My name is Taylor Hawk, and I am the Director of Legislative and Political Strategy at the Delaware State Education Association, which represents Delaware teachers, specialists, and education support professionals across the state.

DSEA supports HB 201 because it will better position our state to respond to and prevent the devastation caused by school shootings. Since 1999, over 338,000 students have experienced the gun violence at their schools, and in 2022 alone, 34 students and adults died from gun violence in schools.

In addition to the devastation caused by school shooting deaths, students exposed school shootings experience lifelong mental health consequences and are less likely to graduate high school in addition to numerous other negative health and educational outcomes.

Every Delaware student and educator deserves to go to school without fearing for their physical safety, and DSEA thanks Speaker Schwartzkopf for working to keep Delaware schools safe.

Taylor Hawk

Director of Legislative and Political Strategy

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Dear Members of the House Administration Committee:

I wish to record my objections to both of these bills. The scope and clear intent of these bills is to infringe upon and limit my ability to safely and legally carry a firearm for the purpose of protecting myself, my family and loved ones. I pursued the rigors of applying for and being granted a license to concealed carry a deadly weapon in Delaware (and other states).

These laws serve to increase the number of instances where I must disarm myself, often leaving my firearm secured in my vehicle, to attend functions in schools or other public venues. These venues rarely have either armed protection or methods to identify persons not willing to follow the law. As such, it increases the danger that I must face rather than reducing it.

Most of you are aware that the greatest risk of firearm theft is from vehicles - even when the vehicle is locked and the firearm is otherwise secured. Secondly, the actions of disarming and storing a firearm repeatedly increases the risks associated with handling loaded firearms. My firearm is safest, when it is securely holstered on my body and is only handled with putting it on in the morning and removing and safely storing it at night.

As a Delaware citizen, I encourage you NOT to release this poorly conceived legislation from committee and focus instead on effective policing measures to identify and remove those individuals that are clearly a threat to civil society. Let's focus on addressing criminal activity and not applying additional restrictions on the 99.9% of lawful gun owners.

Kind regards,

Brent Burdge

Wilmington, DE

I ask you to vote NO on both of these Bills. They do nothing to lower the crime problems.

They only affect the honest citizens of Delaware.

Criminals only obey the laws that they want to.

Criminals do not obey the laws you have previously passed.

Criminals are not prosecuted when they are arrested. A whopping 88 % were Plea Bargained.

Paul Eldridge

Newark,De. 19711

Stop making criminals of honest people !

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

Brady
840 First St. NE Ste. 400
Washington, DC 20002



Testimony of Liddy Ballard, Manager, State Policy
Support for HB 201 & HB 202
Before the Delaware House Administration Committee
June 6, 2023

Chairwoman Longhurst, Vice Chairwoman Minor-Brown, and Distinguished Members of the Delaware House Administration Committee,

Founded in 1974, Brady works across Congress, courts, and communities, uniting gun owners and non-gun owners alike, to take action, not sides, and end America's gun violence epidemic. Our organization today carries the name of Jim Brady, who was shot and severely injured in the assassination attempt on President Ronald Reagan. Jim and his wife, Sarah, led the fight to pass federal legislation requiring background checks for gun sales. Brady continues to uphold Jim and Sarah's legacy by uniting Americans from coast to coast, red and blue, young and old, liberal and conservative, to combat the epidemic of gun violence.

Thank you for allowing us to submit testimony before this committee today. There are two crucial, common-sense bills before you today that will protect two crucial tenets of Delaware's XX—the right to democracy and the right of children to learn and play safely. HB 201 bans the possession of firearms in Safe School and Recreation Zones, and HB 202 bans the carry of firearms at polling places on election day.

HB 201: Safe School and Recreation Zones

HB 201 will protect Delaware children from armed threats in places where they should feel safe to learn and grow: the classroom and on school grounds. Gun violence is the number one killer of children in America, and fear of gun violence in schools is an equalizer across geography, class, and race. During the 2021-2022 school year, children experienced nearly four times as many gun violence incidents than in 2013.¹ Prohibiting the possession of firearms on school grounds will greatly reduce the likelihood of tragedy occurring.

There were 850 instances in which guns were found on school campuses or recreation zones since August 2022, compared to 600 firearms found in that same period during the last year—an appalling number that could be directly targeted and reduced through the passage of HB 201.² The stories of negligent incidents involving firearms at schools are endless, from a Superintendent's firearm being found in a school

¹K-12 School Shooting Database. (n.d.). *All shootings at schools from 1970-present*. <https://k12ssdb.org/all-shootings>

²Gun Violence Archive. (n.d.). *Gun Violence Archive*. <https://www.gunviolencearchive.org/>

bathroom,³ to a teacher unintentionally firing a gun in class during a safety demonstration,⁴ to the two students who brought unloaded firearms to a school in Wilmington, DE in February,⁵ and a New York elementary school student bringing a firearm to school and showing their classmates.⁶

HB 201 prohibits the possession of firearms in Safe School and Recreation Zones, which are defined as any building, structure, athletic field, sports stadium, or vehicle, or within 1,000 feet thereof, that is owned, operated, leased, or rented by a public or private school, or by a municipality and is used for recreation, athletic fields, or sports stadiums. Police officers, constables, active-duty members of the US Armed Forces or the DE National Guard acting in an official capacity, and those with a concealed carry license *who leave their weapon in a locked container or locked firearms rack their vehicle*, are exempt from this rule. This bill also does not apply to private property not part of school grounds, or those engaged in lawful hunting, firearms instruction, or firearm-related sports on public lands, other than those belonging to a public or private school. HB 201 is constitutionally sound and will create an invaluable peace of mind for children, educators, and family members in Delaware.

HB 202: Polling Places

HB 202 will protect Delaware residents from an armed threat to one of America's most valuable democratic institutions: voting. Now more than ever, voter intimidation is a legitimate concern for future elections; it falls to state and local officials to take proactive steps to ensure the laws are enforced, hence why this bill is so incredibly important.

Allowing firearms at polling stations is voter intimidation, plain and simple. The presence of guns at or around polling places poses a danger to the process of fair and free elections simply because of the inherent threat to voters' emotional and physical well-being. Voter intimidation is not only dangerous, it is unlawful. It is against the law to engage in any efforts to intimidate, threaten, or coerce a voter to vote or not vote, or to vote for or against a particular candidate.⁷ Voter intimidation or suppression has many forms but the most dangerous form is *armed* intimidation, which further contributes to the growing gun violence epidemic in our nation.⁸ Armed intimidation threatens one of our most fundamental rights in democracy's most sensitive location - the voting booth.

The bill before you today - HB 202 - would prohibit carrying a firearm at a polling site during an election day, as well as two hours before polls open and two hours after polls close. Ensuring that individuals are not confronted with firearms in an intimidating or threatening manner while exercising their right at the ballot box is of utmost importance to preserving and defending all tenets of our democracy.

³WKRC. (February 19, 2023). Report: elementary school student finds gun superintendent left in bathroom. *Local12*. <https://local12.com/news/nation-world/gun-school-bathroom-student-found-elementary-superintendent-left-restroom-stall-3rd-grade-firearm-campus-weapon-child-rising-star-texas>

⁴Burns, G. (October 4, 2017). Gun discharges during struggle between deputy, high school student. https://www.mlive.com/news/detroit/2017/10/report_gun_discharges_during_s.html

⁵Hughes, I. (February 3, 2023). Unloaded guns found in backpacks of 8-year-old, 14-year-old at separate Red Clay schools. *Delaware Online*. <https://www.delawareonline.com/story/news/crime/2023/02/03/delaware-students-8-14-year-old-unloaded-guns-red-clay-shortlidge-dupont/69871818007/>

⁶Stevenson, D. (May 10, 2023). Central NY elementary student brings gun to school, shows to classmate, school officials say. *Syracuse.com*. <https://www.syracuse.com/crime/2023/05/central-ny-elementary-student-brings-gun-to-school-shows-to-classmate-school-officials-say.html>

⁷52 U.S.C. §§ 10101(b), 10307(b).

⁸Anderman, A. (September 16, 2022). Protecting democracy from armed intimidation: a guide for states. *Giffords Law Center*. <https://giffords.org/lawcenter/report/protecting-democracy-from-armed-intimidation-a-guide-for-states/>.

Threats of armed intimidation have grown in size and scale, and these threats have directly impacted the lives of Delawarians. This issue is one that has plagued a variety of states, and is of chief concern for law enforcement officers and election officials alike. Two months prior to the 2020 election, the United States Department of Homeland Security released a draft threat assessment that asserted “open-air, publicly accessible parts of physical election infrastructure,” including polling places and voter registration events, could be “flash points for potential violence.”⁹

This bill poses no threat to the Second Amendment rights of Delawarians, as the Supreme Court has recognized that the prohibition of guns in sensitive places - in this case, polling places - is one of several places explicitly authorized by the Supreme Court in *Bruen* as sensitive places where arms carrying may be prohibited, consistent with the Second Amendment.¹⁰ There are common sense solutions that we know are necessary to protect the electoral rights of the people of Delaware at such a fragile time in our republic, and this bill is one of them.

The rate of firearm ownership has grown exponentially alongside deepening ideological divides; this potent combination has led to the proliferation and increased threat of extremist militia organizations nationwide that continue to use firearms in threatening and intimidating ways, including near or at polling locations or outside recount locations. Clear instances of armed voter intimidation plagued the 2020 election¹¹ and public officials must assume that this behavior will continue in order to best protect their constituents. Proactive steps like HB 202 must be taken to ensure the safety and security of our electorate.

For all of these reasons, Brady strongly encourages this Committee to vote in favor of HB 202 to protect all Delaware voters from encountering armed intimidation at polling places and ensuring that our democratic processes remain free and fair. This action is necessary and within your authority to ensure that voters in your state are protected and can vote safely and without intimidation or risk.

Sincerely,
Liddy Ballard


⁹Hakim, D., Saul, S., Corasaniti, N., et al. (September 30, 2020). Trump renews fears of voter intimidation as G.O.P. poll watchers mobilize. *The New York Times*. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/09/30/us/trump-election-poll-watchers.html>.

¹⁰See *NYSPPRA v. Bruen*, 597 U.S. ___, p.21(2022).

¹¹Porter, T. (September 20, 2020). Trump supporters staged a rally at a Virginia polling center during early voting, intimidating voters, election officials say. *Business Insider*. <https://www.businessinsider.com/virginia-trump-supporters-intimidated-voters-disrupt-early-voting-2020-9>

I'm George Higgins, a resident of Newark, and I thank you for this opportunity to speak in SUPPORT of House Bill 201. When passed, this bill will enable law enforcement officers to screen for high-risk individuals and enable interdiction BEFORE tragedy strikes in school and recreational zones.

As a gun owner myself, I am constantly appalled by the irresponsible behavior of people who have access to firearms. People who misuse their *right* to own a firearm to summarily *kill* or *maim* other human beings.

New technology has emerged to enable the use of existing camera surveillance systems to detect and alert to the presence of firearms.  Firearms carried into schools. Into recreational areas. Professional law enforcement and former military are employed to assess real-time situations and immediately notify on-site and local law enforcement officers when threats are verified.

HB 201 ensures police and security CAN act immediately when a person possesses a firearm – BEFORE shots are fired.

I've owned guns since the 1960s and HB 201 is NOT taking away my right to possess firearms. HB 201 protects the right of citizens to live without the constant threat of gun violence.

Having seen the devastating effects that gun violence has on individuals, families, and communities, I believe we all have a role to play in reducing the misuse of firearms.

As a responsible gun owner, I urge our elected officials to support and pass this bill into law. Let's work together to ensure the safe and responsible use of firearms in our community. Thank you.

George Higgins
239 North Star Road
Newark, DE 19711

Former Navy Seals using AI to keep kids safe

 [wxyz.com/news/former-navy-seals-develop-technology-to-alert-schools-businesses-of-potential-active-shooters](https://www.wxyz.com/news/former-navy-seals-develop-technology-to-alert-schools-businesses-of-potential-active-shooters)

Kimberly Craig

May 27, 2022

SOUTHFIELD, Mich. (WXYZ) — "If we save one human life, everything will have been worth it," said Sam Alaimo, a former Navy Seal and co-founder of ZeroEyes.

ZeroEyes uses artificial intelligence to detect close to 200 different firearms before anyone posing a threat might even get the chance to fire a shot.

"We do it to save lives," Alaimo told 7 Action News Thursday.

Combining its gun detection technology to existing surveillance cameras at schools or workplaces, ZeroEyes is able to detect firearms as soon as they become visible.

Military veterans, familiar with operating calmly in highly stressful situations, monitor the systems around the clock, analyze any images detected and notify their clients and first responders.

Unlike a lot of video monitoring services, analysts for ZeroEyes are not flooded with countless camera feeds. Instead, their analysts sit in front of a blank screen that only displays images when their technology, embedded in the surveillance camera systems, detects a firearm.

And, in less than five seconds, Alaimo said their human analyst is able to verify whether the highlighted image is actually a firearm to avoid a false positive. If the image is an actual firearm, the analyst immediately sends an alert to their clients and first responders. The alert includes the visual image and location of the subject.

"We never stream live feeds," Alaimo said. "We can't store personal data. There's no privacy concern. There's no ethical concern. We just get that image when our algorithm says, 'Here's a gun. Do with it what you will.' And then we enact our protocols so that our client can enact their security protocols before a shot is even fired."

ZeroEyes is currently being used in schools in 18 states, including Michigan at **Oxford High School**, where administrators are said to be evaluating using the technology service beyond their free pilot program with the company.

"Since 1970, there have been nearly 1,650 school shootings with no signs of slowing down," said Mike Lahiff, CEO and co-founder of ZeroEyes. "No child should ever have to experience the horror of such an incident. We are proud to partner with the Oxford district and the state of Michigan to protect its students. We encourage all Michigan residents to ask your legislator to fund AI weapon detection technology."

More information on ZeroEyes can be found on [**its website**](#).

New artificial intelligence feature to detect guns through surveillance video

 abc7news.com/gun-safety-artificial-intelligence-omnilert-security-cameras/7431778

October 28, 2020

The company Omnilert is rolling out new technology that allows security cameras to identify a gun, and alert guards in the area of the potential threat.

Security cameras have become valuable tools to identify threats of violence. There's a new development Wednesday that adds artificial intelligence that can detect guns in security video.

The new dimension of artificial intelligence, or AI, has the potential to prevent a mass casualty event.

"We needed to move away from the thinking that emergency mass notification systems were all about notification," said David Fraser, CEO of Omnilert.

Fraser demonstrated its new Gun Detect technology it claims to be an industry first using AI. Utilizing existing camera networks in a large-scale setting, such as a school or airport or large business campus, algorithms can identify a gun or shotgun. The system first flags the gun in orange as suspicious, then goes to red alert in seconds.

"They basically can make a high-resolution determination of whether this is a real threat or not," said Fraser.

A new law enforcement team could soon be created in Santa Clara County to help identify and remove firearms from gangsters, felons, or those who are the subject of domestic violence restraining orders.

In the demonstration for ABC7 News, a suspect with a face mask walks into view of a security camera, briefly casing out the room and then pulling out a gun. Artificial intelligence identifies it as a threat.

"After that," noted Fraser, "it's a single click to be able to initiate a predefined set of actions."

A cell phone pop-up notifies a security officer. Software then provides a still photo to get details of the gun and a description of the suspect. Then a decision can be made whether to dispatch first responders or to dismiss it as a false alarm. AI knows, for example, that a sprinkler head is not a gun.

Low-light conditions or an impaired field of vision could impact AI's ability to recognize a threat. However, AI is showing promise of early warning before shots are fired.

Mike Leone is a senior analyst at Enterprise Strategy Group.

"Over time and as we continue to collect video and as we better train some of these algorithms and models and to best detect those images or objects, I think it's only going to get better," he said.

Omnilert sees college campuses as a key market for its AI technology.

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I'm George Higgins, a resident of Newark, and I thank you for this opportunity to speak in SUPPORT of Delaware's House Bill 202. When passed, this law will enable us to limit those individuals who possess a firearm at a polling place on Election Day to those who are commissioned to protect and to serve.

As a gun owner myself, I am constantly appalled by the irresponsible behavior of people who have access to firearms. People who misuse their *right* to own a firearm to intimidate or even summarily *maim* and *kill* their fellow human beings.

I've owned guns since the 1960s and there is nothing in this law or other laws that impedes my own reasonable possession and use of firearms. This bill is not taking away my right to own firearms. This bill is ensuring that firearms in the vicinity of polling places are only carried and used by those who are specifically assigned to safeguard our freedom to vote without duress or intimidation.

Having personally experienced intimidation instigated by people openly carrying firearms during public gatherings, I know the danger posed to the public and to those officers whose charge it is to keep the peace.

And, having had two beloved members of my own family gunned down and killed in their own home during a home invasion, I know the devastating and permanent effects that gun violence has on individuals, families, and communities.

I believe we all have a role to play in reducing the abuse of firearms. And protecting the peace and sanctity of the polling place is fundamental to ensuring our rights to life and liberty under the Constitution.

As a responsible gun owner, I urge our elected officials to support and pass HB 202 bill into law. Let's work together to ensure the safe and responsible use of firearms in our community. Thank you.

George Higgins
239 North Star Road
Newark, DE 19711



TESTIMONY OF
THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DELAWARE
Before The House Administration Committee

June 7, 2023

In support of HB202

Good morning, my name is Jill Itzkowitz and I am pleased to speak today, on behalf of the League of Women Voters of DE, in support of HB202.

We would like to thank the sponsors for proposing legislation that would restrict unauthorized firearms at polling places. This would prevent voter intimidation and make voters feel safe as they cast their ballots.

The League views voting as a fundamental right that should not be undermined. As Deborah Turner, president of the LWVUS stated, "Allowing private citizens to carry guns inside polling places poses a threat to the election process." This is more important at this time given the heightened political polarization and increase in gun violence.

Again, we like to thank the sponsors of HB202 for promoting and safeguarding voting in Delaware.