

Montana Shooting Sports Association, Inc.

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Sheri Scurr
Research Analyst
Legislative Services Division
Capitol Station
Helena, Montana 59620

Dear Ms. Scurr,

I understand that the Law and Justice Interim Committee wishes to review the relevance and benefit of the Governor's Advisory Council on Concealed Weapon Permits established under 45-8-329(4), M.C.A..

I wrote the original bill and language that established the Advisory Council. That original bill, when enacted, authorized the Governor to negotiate reciprocity with other states having similar laws. The intended purpose of the Council was to actively pursue reciprocity with other states.

That scheme for reciprocity didn't work out because the Governor (Racicot) did not wish to pursue the reciprocity methodology the council recommended, and also would not guide the Council with any direction about what reciprocity methodology the Governor would accept. Thus, both the Council and actual reciprocity were stalled.

So, the next session, we ran another successful bill to change the reciprocity statute to cause Montana to simply accept the permits issued by other states. That new scheme left the Council an orphan - without a mission. When I wrote that second bill, I should have also deleted the language establishing the Council. Not doing that was an oversight.

The Council still has no real mission. It could be dropped from statute with no consequence that I can imagine.

Sincerely yours,

/s/

Gary Marbut, President
Author, *Gun Laws of Montana*