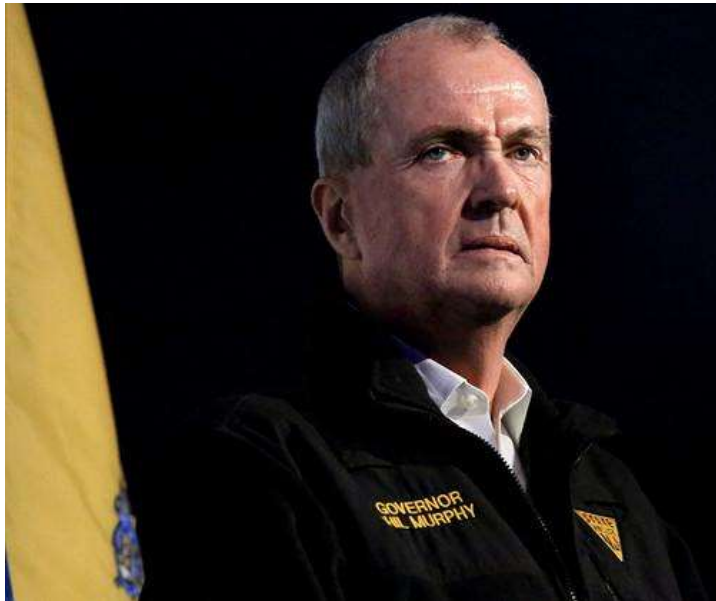


NEW JERSEY

Federal judge temporarily blocks portions of New Jersey's new gun law

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The challenge to the new law, which Gov. Phil Murphy signed in late December, was brought by gun-rights groups. | Yana Paskova/Getty Images

By **DANIEL HAN**

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A federal judge on Monday temporarily blocked part of a newly-enacted New Jersey law that prohibits guns from being carried in certain parts of the state.

U.S. District Judge Renée Marie Bumb, sitting in Camden, issued a temporary restraining order for a section of the law that specifically bans guns from being carried in public libraries or museums, bars or restaurants that serve alcohol and entertainment facilities. One catch-all provision barring guns from being carried on private property where the owner did not explicitly grant permission was also blocked, as was another

section that prohibits guns from being carried in vehicles unless they are unloaded and stored in a closed area.

The challenge to the new law, which Gov. Phil Murphy signed in late December, was brought by gun-rights groups. The law was pushed by Murphy and Democrats in the state Legislature who sought to revamp New Jersey's gun carry laws in light of the [U.S. Supreme Court's ruling](#) last summer which drastically expanded the scope of who could carry guns outside of the home.

Much of the new law — which also overhauled the process for obtaining a concealed carry permit as well as mandated the purchase of liability insurance for gun carriers — remains unaffected. Most of the 25 “sensitive places” where guns are banned, including government buildings, transportation hubs and hospitals, likewise were not affected.

Gun rights groups said they targeted certain parts of the law they believed would be easiest to overturn.

“We chose wisely in what we were challenging so we could quickly get a temporary restraining order,” Alan M. Gottlieb, founder of the Second Amendment Foundation which is leading the legal challenge, said in an interview. “So instead of challenging the whole law in New Jersey, we challenged the most egregious parts. ... because we wanted to win and we wanted to win it fast.”

The constitutionality of the new law has been a central point of debate, with Republicans and gun-rights groups saying it would not stand up to a court challenge. Senate Republican Minority Leader Steve Oroho (R-Sussex) said in a statement that Monday's order “validates what [Republicans] have been saying [and] is a victory for the 2nd Amendment.”

In her 60-page opinion, Bumb appeared incredulous that some of the “sensitive places” would withstand a challenge. The U.S. Supreme Court said in its ruling that states could create limits on where guns could be carried, but only if the prohibitions are analogous to historical regulations.

“The State may regulate conduct squarely protected by the Second Amendment only if supported by a historical tradition of firearm regulation,” Bumb, an appointee of former President George W. Bush, wrote. “Here, Plaintiffs have shown that Defendants will not be able to demonstrate a history of firearm regulation to support any of the challenged provisions.”

A spokesperson for the governor’s office pushed back on the ruling, calling it an “errant” decision from a “right-wing federal judge.”

New Jersey Attorney General Matt Platkin said the ruling was “inconsistent” with gun rights.

“We are disappointed by the Court’s ruling, which is inconsistent with the Second Amendment and will make New Jerseyans considerably less safe,” Platkin said in a statement. “But this temporary order is just that: temporary. And we look forward to continuing to press our case, including ultimately on appeal.

Bumb will decide later whether to issue a preliminary injunction, which would block parts of the law from taking effect until a final judgment is made. Another federal lawsuit challenging the new law, led by the Association of New Jersey Rifle & Pistol Clubs, is ongoing.

New York, which has enacted similar laws to restrict gun carry rights, is facing similar legal challenges to its new laws.

Read the judge's *order* and *opinion* .

- **FILED UNDER:**
- NEW JERSEY,
- SECOND AMENDMENT,
- GUN LAWS,
- GUN RIGHTS,
- PHIL MURPHY