

**INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION**

11250 WAPLES MILL ROAD

FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22030



**NRA**

February 27, 2020

House Bill 1078:

Opposed

Dear Chairwomen McIntosh & Members of the Committee:

House Bill 1078 prohibits counties and public schools from using any funding to provide a teacher a firearm or train a teacher in the “use of a firearm.” It is a solution in search of a problem. At present, teachers are not permitted to possess a firearm on school grounds in Maryland. State law does provide minor exemptions to the general prohibition on firearms on school property for law enforcement officers or “a person hired by a county board of education specifically for the purpose of guarding public school property.” Should a county board want to provide firearm safety training to teachers and staff, they should have the ability to do so. For these reasons, we oppose House Bill 1078.

This legislation further limits the ability of local authorities to determine how best to provide for the safety of their students and faculty.

However, an off-duty or retired law enforcement officer who is the parent, guardian, or visitor of a student at the school,

This legislation could be interpreted to prohibit funding for any training that has any coursework regarding the safe handling of firearms. One could easily envision a school safety course that was not intended to provide the teacher with the skills necessary to carry a firearm in school, but would have as part of the curriculum what to do if they encounter a firearm in school. Such a curriculum might teach safe firearm handling and therefore violate the prohibition on funding for training in the “use of a firearm.”

According to Faster Saves Lives, a risk assessment program out of Columbus, Ohio, on average, when a killer is stopped by someone at the scene, there will be 2-3 less casualties. When he or she is stopped by a responding law enforcement officer, there will be 12-16 casualties. Waiting for police will result in an increase of 9-14 deaths to your staff and students. Police desperately want to solve this problem for you, but unless they are inside your buildings when the shooting starts, they simply can't get there in time.

The majority of school staff wants nothing to do with carrying a firearm in a school.

Those are not the individuals you want to authorize or the people we want to train in these programs. But every building has that one or more individual(s), who will volunteer, and would take this program very seriously. By picking the right people, and getting them the necessary training from the appropriate instructors, teachers could serve a vital role in protecting the many students they are entrusted with.

Because this legislation would further curtail local authorities' ability to determine how best to provide for the safety of their students and faculty, Maryland NRA members encourage you to oppose this piece of legislation. The National Rifle Association respectfully requests that you oppose House Bill 1078!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Weber". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "D" and a long, sweeping underline.

David Weber  
Maryland State Director  
NRA-ILA