

**INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION**

11250 WAPLES MILL ROAD

FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22030



**NRA**

TESTIMONY OF THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION

February 13, 2020

Senate Bill 422 Opposed

Chairman Smith and Members of the Committee:

The National Rifle Association (NRA) opposes Senate Bill 422 and its increased training requirements for those to whom a permit to carry, wear, or transport a handgun has been issued. We oppose this bill as it infringes on our rights as citizens, while doing nothing to promote public safety. The NRA is supportive of effective handgun trainings but not government mandated trainings. In fact, our organization was founded on providing training to our members.

We know economist John R. Lott measured the effects of burdensome Right-to-Carry training requirements in a recent book titled "More Guns Less Crime". Lott determined that "The presence or length of training periods typically show no effect on crime..." Lott also found that an increase in training requirements and permit fees lowers the rate at which individuals obtain Right-to-Carry permits. Thus, infringing on one's constitutional right to protect themselves.

At present, the Maryland handgun permit already requires applicants and those seeking renewal to complete significant training requirements. SB422 would increase this training requirement, by requiring a permit holder to acquire two new types of training each year they hold their permit. Increasing the training requirement possibly beyond 16 hours pushes it into either extended hours or a three-day course, which means it couldn't take place on a weekend.

The fact is situational awareness and competent handling are already incorporated in the 16 hours of training for new permit to carry applicants. The reality is though that you don't have classrooms full of permit holders sitting through classroom instruction on state law and safety before going out and committing a violent crime. The idea that criminals will change their behavior based on the passage of this new requirement is a fool's errand at best.

For these reasons, the NRA is opposed to the passage of SB 422. We reiterate that we are supportive of training for handgun permits, just not government mandated trainings.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Weber".

David Weber

Maryland State Director  
NRA-ILA