



NRA

February 20, 2020

Senate Bill 816: Opposed

Dear, Chairman Smith & Members of the Committee,

Senate Bill 816 would create severe additional burdens on Maryland's licensed firearms dealers. Such legislation would make it impracticable for many licensed dealers to continue to operate, thus depriving Maryland gun owners of their much-needed services. Those dealers that remain would be forced to pass on the severe compliance costs onto Maryland gun owners, raising the cost of exercising Second Amendment rights.

These new burdens on licensees would require them to maintain electronic records of all receipts and sales of firearms, require them to create a video and audio record of all receipt and sale of firearms and to maintain that record for one year, and require that a licensed dealer create an anti-theft operating procedure that includes: locks, exterior lighting, surveillance cameras, and alarm systems, all of which only gets passed on the consumer.

On top of all these expensive mandated costs, the Maryland FFI would be burdened with additional regulations and costs. The licensed dealers would be required to now run a background check for new employees and annually for existing employees. Private employee information, including fingerprints, would be required to be submitted to the Department of Public Safety and Correction Services "Central Repository" (registration of gun store employees). Now many individuals are in great threat of their personal information being made public, and even possible stolen.

SB 186 will also require that a licensed dealer obtain at least \$2,000,000 in liability insurance. Placing great financial burdens on the small mom and pop stores and in turn putting many of these small business owners out of business. Then, during operating business hours, all firearms are to be stored in an area inaccessible to customers and rendered inoperable. SB 186 would mandate that outside business hours, all firearms should be stored in a vault, safe, or "reinforced display case with shatterproof glass." Also, all of the costs to be compliant will guarantee many small business owners to turn the lights off for good.

This legislation is unnecessary. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives already imposes significant regulatory requirements on licensed firearms

dealers (FFLs). FFLs are required to maintain form 4473 firearm transfer records for at least 20 years. And if they go out of business, FFLs are required to send such records to the ATF to facilitate firearm traces.

This legislation is an attempt to make it as difficult as possible to be a licensed firearms dealer in Maryland, and in turn, make it as difficult as possible to lawfully obtain a firearm. The National Rifle Association of America opposes Senate Bill 816.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Weber", with a stylized, cursive script.

David Weber
Maryland State Director
NRA-ILA