

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

**INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION**

11250 WAPLES MILL ROAD

FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22030



**NRA**

February 26, 2020

Delegate Luke Clippinger  
House Office Building, Room 101  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: OPPOSITION TO HOUSE BILL 1257

Dear Chairman Clippinger & Members of the Committee:

House Bill 1257 creates severe burdens on Maryland's licensed firearms dealers. Such legislation makes it impracticable for many licensed dealers to continue to operate, thus depriving Maryland gun owners of their much-needed services. Those dealers that remain will be forced to pass on the severe compliance costs to Maryland gun owners, raising the cost of exercising Second Amendment rights.

These new burdens on licensees will 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, 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. On top of all these expensive mandated costs, HB1257 will also require that a licensed dealer obtain at least \$2,000,000 in liability insurance. All of these costs associated with compliance will guarantee many small businesses will go out business for good.

This legislation is unnecessary. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives already imposes significant regulatory requirements on licensed firearms dealers. 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. For these reasons and many more, we oppose House Bill 1257.

Sincerely,

David Weber  
Maryland State Director  
NRA-ILA

