



February 26, 2020

House Bill 1257

Public Safety - Licensed Firearms Dealers (Firearms Dealers' Safety Act)

House Judiciary Committee

Position: FAVORABLE

Anne Arundel County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 1257 - Public Safety - Licensed Firearms Dealers (Firearms Dealers' Safety Act). This Bill would require licensed firearms dealers to keep current electronic records of receipts, sales, and dispositions of firearms, as well as electronic video and audio recordings of transactions. The Bill also requires licensed firearms dealers to create standard operating procedures to prevent theft and unauthorized access to firearms inventory and prohibit firearms dealers from hiring persons who are prohibited from possessing firearms .

In response to the 209 gun deaths in Anne Arundel County from 2013 to 2017, the Anne Arundel Gun Violence Prevention Task Force (GVPTF) undertook an examination of the universe of gun violence issues and prevention strategies through the lens of public health beginning in May 2019. Of the Task Force's many recommendations to reduce gun violence, supporting gun safety legislation is a major component.

This particular legislation will help to create and strengthen uniformity of records relating to firearms sales. It will also add new and strengthen current safeguards to prevent people from gaining unauthorized access to firearms. Furthermore, requiring annual employee checks with the Criminal Justice Information System Central Repository of the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, as well as requiring electronic records of sales be updated within 1 day of acquisition and 7 days of a sale will ensure that records are current in order to prevent prohibited persons from having access to firearms. Finally, requiring audio and video recording of sales will assist in law enforcement in the investigation of firearms related crimes.

Accordingly, Anne Arundel County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on House Bill 1257.