

**Stoney Creek Fishing & Hunting Club**  
**9090 Ft. Smallwood Rd.**  
**Pasadena, MD 21122**

March 4, 2020

**HB 1629: Office of the Attorney General – Firearm Crime - Study**  
**Testimony submitted by the Stone Creek Fishing and Hunting Club**  
**Opposed**

The Stoney Creek Fishing and Hunting Club, which has some 300 members and has been in existence for over 70 years, is **OPPOSED** to HB 1629. We oppose the Bill for several reasons. First, it would direct the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) to conduct a study on firearms crimes the responsibility for which properly falls under the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP). Secondly, the study authorized by HB 1629 would be duplicative and thus wasteful of public funds

In 2019, Senate Bill 622, "Office of the Attorney General – Crime Firearms – Study" was submitted to the General Assembly for consideration. However, the Bill was amended to assign responsibility for the study to the GOCCP. SB 622 was subsequently approved by the General Assembly and signed into law. The GOCCP has until December 1, 2020 to complete the study and report the findings to the Governor and the General Assembly.

HB 1629 would authorize another study by the OAG this time addressing firearm crimes committed beginning in 2015 and coming forward. The study is to be conducted in two phases, the first covering the period August 1, 2015 – July 31, 2019 and the second August 1, 2019 through July 31, 2021. Reports would be due to the Governor and General Assembly on December 1, 2020 and December 1, 2022, respectively.

We have two major concerns with the studies proposed under HB 1629. The first is that the scope of the new study, while somewhat different than the being conducted by the GOCCP, basically duplicates in many respects the analysis by the latter. Would it not make sense to complete the current study and examine the results before initiating the OAG study? Or consideration might be given to rolling the scope of the HB 1629 study into that of the GOCCP?

We are also concerned HB 1629 would have two phases, 2015 to 2019 and 2019 to 2022. The obvious question is why conduct a second study until the first study by the GOCCP has been completed, the results analyzed and reported later this year?

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In view of the above, directing a separate firearms study now by the OAG makes no sense, and in all likelihood would be a waste of taxpayer dollars.

We recommend HB 1629 receive an unfavorable report.



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