

Nicholas DeTello

HB871 Public Safety – Preliminary Approval

Favorable

3/9/2022

I am a Software Developer, Eagle Scout, family man, as well as a Civil Rights Enthusiast. I have voted independently, I am currently registered as a Libertarian, and I have a diverse set of views (some left, some right). These include but are not limited to: equality, limiting abuse of police power, protection of minority groups (such as my direct LGBT family) and decriminalization of victimless crimes (drug possession, exercising civil rights, etc.). I am also a firearms owner currently unable to legally carry a handgun in public under the current law, and I find the current requirements to be arbitrary and capricious; for these reasons I urge a favorable report of House Bill 871.

Too often I find myself testifying against bills in Annapolis; this is usually due to proposed bills being used as tools to enhance the overreach of already far too-powerful Law Enforcement Agencies. I would testify the same way even if it was overreach in Austin, Texas or Phoenix, Arizona. Many of the answers to the problems in this country are not solved by giving police more ways to arrest and jail citizens. Often the opposite is true; officer badge cams, repealing qualified immunity, decriminalization of victimless crimes, favoring rehabilitation over incarceration are all positives in my book. That's exactly why this bill is so important; I strongly support empowering citizens and taking harsh/unnecessary laws off the books.

Speaking personally on this bill, I feel the current carry permit requirements are so difficult to qualify for, such that only the affluent or privileged can attain it. It discourages the less affluent from applying. I personally *could* afford the expensive, classist requirements of training, fees, fingerprinting, and opening a business, just to find out I'm denied for my permit. Could you say the same for most of your constituents? Simply giving a preliminary approval before an applicant submitted their carry permit application would level the playing field, truly improving equality in this state.

To conclude, there are many reasons to vote favorably on this bill (and unfavorably on others). This bill would remove existing arbitrary and capricious carry permit requirements, it would empower citizens *instead* of strengthening an already too-powerful police-state, and it would bring equality to your constituents.

For these reasons I urge you to vote favorably on House Bill 871.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicholas DeTello". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nicholas DeTello

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