

## 481 Criminal Law – Wearing, Carrying, or Transporting a Handgun – Penalty

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I am State Director of The DC Project and the State Leader of the Armed Women of America. I stand in solidarity with the Ladies of both of these groups, numbering many more than just myself.

After this summers Supreme Court Ruling in the Bruen Case many more Marylanders are carrying a firearm for self-defense. I believe after reading your bill that this is set up to penalize law abiding citizens who would carry a firearm for self-defense. The Permit holder has completed 16 hours of training paid for a background check that would determine that they are law abiding and legal to defend their own lives.

IF the SB1 were be allowed to go forward this would mean that all the people who have followed the regulations required would find them selves in jeopardy of breaking the law everywhere they are (except their own home/property) and now with HB 481 they could go to jail for 5 years because of it.

This Bill goes against the shall issue requirement for law abiding citizens – looking to only penalize them- not the criminal who would not carry legally to begin with. this Bill would punish carry by **non**-disqualified persons more severely than carry of a long gun by disqualified persons and inflict the same penalty for the carry of a handgun by a (non-felon) disqualified person. It should be obvious that carry by disqualified persons warrants harsher sanctions than carry by ordinary law-abiding persons who are NOT disqualified. After all, disqualified persons have already been convicted of a serious crime punishable by more than 2 years of imprisonment. The NON-disqualified person may have a completely clean record and may be carrying because she is living in fear of violent attack. The Bill ignores these differences in circumstances. Those circumstances matter.

Please look at criminal law instead of writing new laws that will target law abiding citizens.