

Nicholas DeTello  
SB 784 - Comprehensive Community Safety Funding Act  
Unfavorable  
2/13/2024

SB 784 - UNFAV

As your constituent, and as a member of the Board of Directors at Maryland Shall Issue, while my views do not necessarily represent the organization, I am personally against this bill and implore the Senate to find it unfavorable.

Per the [Fiscal and Policy note](#) for this bill, the impact on small business will be “potentially meaningful... some portion of the cost of the new tax may be passed on to the consumers through increased prices.” The impact is all but certain; small businesses will pass this on to consumers; consumers will no longer have a reason to purchase firearms in Maryland, and will take their business to other states – defeating the entire purpose of this bill, to raise additional funds out of gun seller’s / owner’s wallets.

Additionally, per the same [Fiscal and Policy note](#), in Revenue distribution: “23% to the Violence Intervention and Prevention Program Fund”. Upon investigating this fund [here](#) and this 2021 evaluation of it [here](#), “Safe Streets Baltimore” was one of the highest funded VIPP-funded projects. This organization is not “a trauma center” as Senator Elfreth and Senate President Ferguson conflated with this bill; it is under investigation [by the FBI for potential gang links](#).

One other thing to consider; this is a tax on the poor and those who would need firearms the most to defend themselves. Most wealthy firearms owners will go out of state to bypass this tax; those in Baltimore wishing to defend themselves will be left most vulnerable with no feasible arms to defend themselves. The MGA has a strong history of disarming such people; please recall the single shot requirement for the HQL in years past (with no shooting ranges in city limits).

For these reasons, I urge an unfavorable report.

Thank you,

Nicholas DeTello