

19 FEB 2024

To: Maryland General Assembly & Full Legislature

Members of the Judiciary Committee

Senators & Delegates

RE: HB0546-Handgun Permits-Accidental Discharge & Training Requirements-Maryland State Police Gun Center (Firearms Safety Act of 2024)

My position: UNFAVORABLE report for this bill proposal

Regarding the above bill, I am requesting an UNFAVORABLE report as this bill would place unnecessary & onerous requirements on LEGAL gun owners who accidentally discharge a firearm. LEGAL gun owners currently complete mandatory training & voluntarily continuing education. Not to mention, there is virtually zero records/data of accidental or intentional discharge of firearms, in Maryland, by legal gun owners, who intend to commit violent crimes. This bill would essentially require individuals to self-incriminate by registering for safety training without due process of the law.

Once again, this legislation is a back-door attempt to make the legal process for legal gun owners to arm themselves. As of the time of this bill proposal, stealing a firearm is a misdemeanor, yet, this assembly continues to focus on ways to regulate LEGAL gun owners & legal firearms.

Lastly, this bill only focuses on LEGAL Wear & Conceal gun carriers, who have already completed mandatory training & education, while MD HQL requirements are significantly less training & education, yet, this bill does not apply to HQL holders. This bill is duplicative in that it is addressing training & education that is already in place for Maryland CCW holders & firearms instructors.

Sincerely

Evie Harris

Baltimore