



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations
88 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

HB0546

February 21, 2024

TO: Members of the House Judiciary Committee

FROM: Nina Themelis, Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations

RE: House Bill 546 – Handgun Permits – Accidental Discharge & Training Requirements

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Bartlett, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 546.

This bill requires a handgun permit holder, if there is an “accidental discharge” by the person, to register for a certified firearms safety training course within 90 days of the incident and to successfully complete the course within six months after the incident. The Secretary of State Police (1) must revoke the handgun permit of a person who fails to satisfy those requirements, with specified written notice, and (2) may reinstate the permit if the person satisfies the training course requirements. The bill requires (1) each law enforcement agency to report information relating to accidental discharges to the Maryland State Police Gun Center and (2) the Gun Center to report all accidental discharges to the Department of State Police's (DSP) Licensing Division.

The unintentional discharge of a weapon can lead to fatal injuries. The National Safety Council has reported that approximately 1% of all gun deaths are preventable unintentional discharges. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, approximately 45,000 people die from firearms injuries every year. That means more than one person dies from an unintentional firearm discharge every day.

Firearm safety is paramount to preventing these deaths. The certified firearms training course specified in the legislation includes detailed classroom instruction and an orientation component that demonstrates the person's safe operation and handling of a firearm.

For the above reasons, the BCA respectfully requests a **favorable** report on HB 546.