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2026 Session - Gun Bills - Synopses & Positions

HOUSE GUN BILLS

HB0083 Family and Law Enforcement Protection Act Crossfile SB0020
Adds the following requested information to the current domestic abuse complaint statute: whether the respondent has an HQL, Wear & Carry Permit, and/or owns firearms. If the petitioner indicates the responded has an HQL, Wear & Carry Permit and/ or owns firearms the following additional information is requested:

(1) the length of time that the petitioner has known or lived with the respondent;
(2) the potential location of the respondent's firearm;
(3) the last time the petitioner saw the respondent's firearm;
(4) the make and model of the respondent's firearm;
(5) how many and what type of firearms the respondent may have access to; and
(6) whether the respondent keeps the firearm in the respondent's car and, if so:
(i) the make and model of the car; and
(ii) the license plate number of the car.

The naivete of the sponsor is obvious. Few petitioners will know this information and will likely be intimidated when faced with this burden and thus deterred from filing a petition. The bill goes even further by placing multiple layers of enormous bureaucratic obligations upon the respondent and law enforcement. **OPPOSE**

HB0094 Public Safety-Handgun Permits-Expiration & Renewal Periods - Retired Law Enforcement Officer Crossfile SB0331
Increasing the time period a permit to wear and carry a handgun is valid from 3 years to 5 years for retired law enforcement officers ONLY. This bill is a "carve out" which, as a matter of principle, we cannot support as written. This bill must be amended so the 5-year renewal will apply to all citizens. **No Position**

HB0126 Regulated Firearms - Seven-Day Waiting Period - Exceptions Crossfile SB0027
Removes the seven-day waiting period for the purchase and transfer of a regulated firearm. Applies only to Maryland citizens who are either active/retired law enforcement or who possess a valid Maryland wear and carry permit. **SUPPORT**

HB0197 Comprehensive Community Safety Funding Act Crossfile SB0118
Imposing an 11% excise tax (in addition to the current 6% sales tax) on the retail sale price of firearms, ammunition, and the following firearms accessories : magazine or magazine loader, firearm scope or optic, stock, grip, handguard, body armor or silencer. **OPPOSE**

HB0223 Center for Firearm Violence Prevention and Intervention - Resources, Tools and Educational Materials
Authorizing the Center for Firearm Violence Prevention to conduct additional activities and consult with other agencies and third-party entities (likely anti-gun/gun control organizations). **No Position (withdrawn by sponsor)**

HB0284 Public Safety - Licensed Firearms Dealers - Notification Regarding Potential Compromise of Security Features Crossfile SB0160
A licensed dealer who knows or reasonably should know that a burglary, attempted burglary, robbery, theft, or any other event may have compromised the security features required under subsection (a) of this section shall notify the secretary within 24 hours after the dealer first discovers that the security features may have been compromised. **No Position**

HB0303 Handguns – Wear, Carry, and Transport Laws – Handbook Publication
A 2A Maryland suggested bill. Requires the Attorney General to publish a handbook annually summarizing all state laws, federal laws, and case law that are applicable to the wearing, carrying, and transporting of a handgun in public in the state. The office of the Attorney General shall draft the handbook: in plain language that can be easily understood without any special knowledge of the applicable state laws, federal laws, or case law; in a format that can be easily used to teach a firearm safety course required under this section. **SUPPORT**

HB 0365 Firearms – Right to Purchase, Own, Possess, and Carry
A well-intentioned but misguided and dangerous bill. Provides that a person may not be denied the right to purchase, own, possess, or carry a firearm solely on the basis that the person is authorized to use medical cannabis under Title 36, Subtitle 3 of the alcoholic beverages and cannabis article. *HOWEVER*, cannabis is still a Schedule 1 drug under federal law and thus cannabis users are prohibited from owning or possessing firearms and ammunition (**see ATF advisory**). Bill has the potential to result in gun owners unwittingly violating federal gun laws.
No Position - Not Recommended for passage.

HB0577 Criminal Law - Firearm Crimes - Machine Gun Convertible Pistols Crossfile SB0334
Generally defining any Glock Gen 5 and earlier pistol with a cruciform trigger bar as a machine gun convertible pistol. Prohibiting the sale, purchase receipt and transfer of machine gun convertible pistols thus rendering them worthless. **OPPOSE**

HB0716 Land Surveyors and Property Line Surveyors - Private Property Access - Prohibition
Crossfile SB0545
During deer firearms hunting season under §10–410 of the Natural Resources Article, a land surveyor or a property line surveyor may not conduct a survey on private property without the written permission of the property owner. **SUPPORT**

HB0741 Firearms Dealers and Employees - Required Training and Exam Crossfile SB0692
Requiring the Secretary of State Police to create an on-line training course and exam for individuals licensed as, or employed by, a State-regulated firearms dealer. Required topic include: state and federal laws regulating the transfer of firearms and ammunition; preventing and reporting to law enforcement the theft of firearms and ammunition; teaching customers firearm safety, including safe storage and handling of firearms; and recognizing and reporting to law enforcement signs of: straw purchases; firearm trafficking; fraudulent activity; and an individual who intends to use a firearm for an unlawful purpose or self–harm; and a written exam customers must pass. **OPPOSE**

HB0820 Handgun Permits - Special Endorsement for Security Clearance Holders
Requiring that a handgun permit bear a certain endorsement showing that certain permit holders have enhanced privileges to wear, carry, or transport a handgun in any location where a law enforcement official is authorized to wear, carry, or transport a handgun, notwithstanding any law or ordinance that prohibits the wearing, carrying, or transporting of a handgun at a place. A "carve out" which will not apply to most citizens. **Support**

HB0863 Gun Theft Felony Act of 2026
Existing law treats gun theft as a simple misdemeanor property crime with penalties based upon the value of the stolen property. This bill will elevate the offense to felony. Establishing a penalty for theft of a firearm of imprisonment not exceeding 5 years or a fine not exceeding $1,000 for a first offense, and imprisonment not exceeding 10 years or a fine not exceeding $2,500 for a second or subsequent offense. Sentence imposed shall be consecutive and in addition to sentence(s) for any other offense. **SUPPORT**

HB0875 Public Safety – Distribution of Literature to Purchasers of Firearms & Ammunition
Requiring the Maryland Department of Health to prepare and distribute to all county health departments literature relating to firearms. Requiring local departments to distribute literature to all stores selling firearms or ammunition. Requiring stores to display and give literature to all purchasers. Local health departments shall enforce and issue citations for non-compliance.
OPPOSE

HB1061 Criminal Law - Wearing, Carrying, or Transporting a Handgun - Prior Convictions
Extends the existing statute on prior convictions for carrying a handgun to include convictions in other states and jurisdictions. No real impact on Maryland gun owners. **No Position**

HB1067 Hunting - Lead and Lead-Based Ammunition - Phase-Out similar to SB0181
Similar in concept to last Session's lead-based ammunition ban, but with a slightly different approach by banning lead ammunition if factory loaded non-lead ammunition is available. Will have a chilling effect by discouraging current and new hunters. **OPPOSE**

HB1123 Criminal Law - Minor's Access to Firearms - Penalty
Adds a penalty of up to 5 years in prison for allowing minors access to firearms, even when to injury results. A problematic bill given the legislature's refusal to impose similar penalties for other intentional crimes. **Oppose**

HB1306 Assisted Outpatient Treatment - Surrender or Seizure of Firearm Crossfile SB0942
Creates firearm surrender, recovery and abandonment procedures for persons subject to court ordered out-patient mental health therapy. **Info Only**

HB1339 Handgun Roster Reform Crossfile SB 830
Eighteen pages devoted to turning over to the Attorney General the authority to determine which handguns may be sold in Maryland. Retroactively reviewing all the handguns currently on the Roster with a view toward removing them from the Roster. Using undefined criteria to determine which handguns may be placed on the roster and requiring extensive testing by the Maryland State Police or unnamed independent agency. Setting a fees schedule to cover the cost of testing. Relegating the Handgun Roster Board members to glorified record keeping clerks. **OPPOSE**

HB1417 Public Safety - Handgun Permit Requirement-Repeal
This Session's iteration of so-called "Constitutional Carry", i.e. no wear and carry permit required. Bill has zero chance of a favorable report in Committee, much less in the House and Senate. Our resources are better used on other legislation. **Support**

HB1608 Public Safety - Firearms - Storage Requirements
Requires storage of firearms in containers which is incapable of being opened without a key, a keypad, a combination, or any other unlocking mechanism; and is capable of preventing an unauthorized user from obtaining access to and possession of a firearm contained inside; and is fire, impact, and tamper resistant. **Oppose**

SENATE GUN BILLS

SB0020 Family and Law Enforcement Protection Act Crossfile HB0083
Adds the following requested information to the current domestic abuse complaint statute: whether the respondent has an HQL, Wear & Carry Permit, and/or owns firearms. If the petitioner indicates the responded has an HQL, Wear & Carry Permit and/ or owns firearms the following additional information is requested:

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(3) the last time the petitioner saw the respondent's firearm;
(4) the make and model of the respondent's firearm;
(5) how many and what type of firearms the respondent may have access to; and
(6) whether the respondent keeps the firearm in the respondent's car and, if so:
    (i) the make and model of the car; and
    (ii) the license plate number of the car.

The naivete of the sponsor is obvious. Few petitioners will know this information and will likely be intimidated and deterred from filing a petition when faced with this burden. The bill goes even further by placing multiple layers of enormous bureaucratic obligations upon the respondent and law enforcement. OPPOSE

SB0027 Regulated Firearms - Seven-Day Waiting Period – Exceptions Crossfile HB0126
Removes the seven-day waiting period for the purchase and transfer of a regulated firearm. Applies only to Maryland citizens who are either active/retired law enforcement or who possess a valid Maryland wear and carry permit. SUPPORT

SB0118 Comprehensive Community Safety Funding Act Crossfile HB0197
Imposing an 11% excise tax (in addition to the current 6% sales tax) on the retail sale price of firearms, ammunition, and the following firearms accessories : magazine or magazine loader, firearm scope or optic, stock, grip, handguard, body armor or silencer. OPPOSE

SB0160 Public Safety - Licensed Firearms Dealers - Notification Regarding Potential Compromise of Security Features Crossfile HB0284
A licensed dealer who knows or reasonably should know that a burglary, attempted burglary, robbery, theft, or any other event may have compromised the security features required under subsection (a) of this section shall notify the secretary within 24 hours after the dealer first discovers that the security features may have been compromised. **No Position**

SB0181 Hunting - Lead and Lead-Based Ammunition - Phase-Out
Similar in concept to last Session's lead-based ammunition ban, but with a slightly different approach by banning lead ammunition if factory loaded non-lead ammunition is available. Will have a chilling effect by discouraging current and new hunters. **OPPOSE**

SB0331 Public Safety-Handgun Permits-Expiration & Renewal Periods - Retired Law Enforcement Officer Crossfile HB0094
Increasing the time period a permit to wear and carry a handgun is valid from 3 years to 5 years for retired law enforcement officers ONLY. This bill is a "carve out" which, as a matter of principle, we cannot support as written. This bill must be amended so the 5-year renewal will apply to all citizens. **No Position**

SB0334 Criminal Law - Firearm Crimes - Machine Gun Convertible Pistols Crossfile HB0577
Generally defining any Glock Gen 5 and earlier pistol with a cruciform trigger bar as a machine gun convertible pistol. Prohibiting the sale, purchase receipt and transfer of machine gun convertible pistols thus rendering them worthless. **OPPOSE**

SB0362 Criminal Law - Child's Access to Firearms - Penalty
Increasing the penalty for storing a firearm in a manner that allows an unsupervised minor access to a firearm from a fine not exceeding $1,000 to include possible imprisonment for a period not exceeding 5 years. The new penalty would, upon a conviction, result in a lifetime prohibition on owning or possessing a firearm. **OPPOSE**

SB0454 Public Schools - School Resource Officers - Firearms Required
Imposing a requirement that a school resource officer shall carry a firearm while present on the premises of the school to which the officer is assigned. **SUPPORT**

SB0545 Land Surveyors and Property Line Surveyors - Private Property Access - Prohibition
Crossfile HB0716
During deer firearms hunting season under §10–410 of the Natural Resources Article, a land surveyor or a property line surveyor may not conduct a survey on private property without the written permission of the property owner. **SUPPORT**

SB0620 Criminal Law - Wearing, Carrying, or Transporting a Handgun - Prior Convictions
Expands the scope of existing statutes to include convictions in another state or military, federal or tribal court of crimes equivalent to certain offenses in Maryland statutes. Does not alter penalty provisions. **No Position**

SB0677 Public Safety – Handgun Permits – Firearms Training Course
A 2A Maryland suggested bill to remove the "irrelevant fluff" topics in Public Safety §5-306 and replacing them with firearm training, including:

1. handgun nomenclature and selecting a handgun for self–defense;
2. ammunition knowledge and defensive ammunition selection;
3. basic defensive handgun skills;
4. drawing a handgun from concealment;
5. loading and stoppage remediation;
6. mindset, including responding to an attack and the aftermath of an attack;
7. handgun concealment and carry modes;
8. home firearm safety; and
9. safe firearm storage, cleaning, and maintenance;

STRONGLY SUPPORT

SB0692 Firearms Dealers and Employees - Required Training and Exam Crossfile HB0741
Requiring the Secretary of State Police to create an on-line training course and exam for individuals licensed as, or employed by, a State-regulated firearms dealer. Required topic include: state and federal laws regulating the transfer of firearms and ammunition; preventing and reporting to law enforcement the theft of firearms and ammunition; teaching customers firearm safety, including safe storage and handling of firearms; and recognizing and reporting to law enforcement signs of: straw purchases; firearm trafficking; fraudulent activity; and an individual who intends to use a firearm for an unlawful purpose or self–harm; and a written exam customers must pass. **OPPOSE**

SB0775 Public Safety - Gun Buyback Programs - Destruction of Firearms
Requiring licensed dealers and law enforcement agencies participating in gun buy-back programs destroy all turned-in firearms including all parts. Begs the question why a licensed dealer would participate in such a program, only to destroy the firearms and parts. **OPPOSE**

SB0830 Handgun Roster Reform Crossfile HB1339
Eighteen pages devoted to turning over to the Attorney General the authority to determine which handguns may be sold in Maryland. Retroactively reviewing all the handguns currently on the Roster with a view toward removing them from the Roster. Using undefined criteria to determine which handguns may be placed on the roster and requiring extensive testing by the Maryland State Police or unnamed independent agency. Setting a fees schedule to cover the cost of testing. Relegating the Handgun Roster Board members to glorified record keeping clerks. **OPPOSE**

SB0899 Firearms Dealers - Firearm Hold Agreements
Provides protection from liability for the actions of customers who temporarily store firearms with the dealer subsequent to the return of the stored firearms to the customer. **SUPPORT**

SB0942 Assisted Outpatient Treatment - Surrender or Seizure of Firearms Crossfile 1306
Creates firearm surrender, recovery and abandonment procedures for persons subject to court ordered out patient mental health therapy. **No Position**