



JEFFREY R. GAHLER  
SHERIFF

# HARFORD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

**Senate Bill 156 - Support**

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## **Handgun Qualification Licenses - Training Requirement - Exemption**

### **Letter of Support to the Senate Judicial Proceedings**

January 29, 2020

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Chairman Smith and members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, I write to you today in full support of Senate Bill 156. This legislation will allow public safety professionals that have completed firearms training with their agencies, and are in compliance with the Maryland Police and Correctional Commission standards or are a retired Officer in compliance with the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act (LEOSA), to be exempt from the Maryland Handgun Qualifying License (HQL) training requirements.

Current law provides an exemption to certain categories of individuals relating to the requirement to complete a firearms safety training course to obtain an HQL in Maryland. The subtitle in current law allows an exemption for all military members honorably discharged, retired law enforcement officers who received their certification from the Maryland Police Training Commission, and employees of an armored car company with a valid handgun permit.

Adding Correctional Officers who have received the required firearms training (which far exceeds the four hour minimum training requirement on firearms and firearm safety) and those public safety professionals eligible under LEOSA standards, will allow those individuals who have already received extensive training to be permitted to apply to receive a

HQL without the expense of completing a class that is repetitive and unnecessary.

I thank you for your consideration and I am hopeful for your favorable recommendation of this Legislation.

Sincerely,  
Sheriff Jeffrey R. Gahler