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Legislative District 34

Harford County

Judicial Proceedings Committee

Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review

Joint Committee on Federal Relations



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RE: Senate Bill 156 – Handgun Qualification License – Training Requirement - Exemption

Dear Committee Members:

I request your support for SB 156. Under existing law, active and retired law enforcement officers from a Federal law enforcement agency, Maryland State Police, or a local law enforcement agency of the State, are exempt from having to obtain an HQL. This bill allows retired law enforcement officers from an out of State agency, active or retired correctional officers, correctional sheriffs, and correctional deputy sheriffs to be exempt from the training requirement that is ordinarily required to receive a handgun qualifications license. Applicants can be considered for the proposed exemption only if they have completed the initial firearms training course approved by the Secretary during their current/past career. These officers/sheriffs have already had extensive firearm training and if properly armed could supplement police in case of an emergency. They should not be required to pay for additional training that is less extensive than the training they received as law enforcement officers.

Senator Bob Cassilly