

Anne Arundel County_FAV_SB 1047

Uploaded by: Baron, Peter

Position: FAV



March 12, 2020

Senate Bill 1047

Office of the Attorney General - Firearm Crime - Study

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

Position: FAVORABLE

Anne Arundel County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 1047- Office of the Attorney General - Firearm Crime - Study. This Bill requires the Office of the Attorney General to study crimes committed with firearms since August 1, 2015, and report its findings to the General Assembly.

In response to the alarming trend of violent acts committed by individuals using guns as the preferred weapon of choice, County Executive Steuart Pittman appointed the Anne Arundel County Gun Violence Prevention Task Force (GVPTF) in April 2019. The task force subsequently explored the latest research, compiled relevant facts and data, identified best practices from other jurisdictions, and issued its preliminary recommendations in December 2019. Those recommendations include a broad range of fact-based proposals and intervention strategies that can be implemented at the local level to prevent gun violence before it occurs. One of the four pillars the task force focused its recommendations around was improving the use of data and governance for tracking firearms crimes.

In addition to stronger preventative actions, the GVPTF report calls for expanded public outreach and education, shared data collection and enhanced gun safety measures. The recommendations were developed through the lens of public health and reflect the growing consensus within the public health community that firearm-related deaths and injuries have reached epidemic levels. Public health organizations, academic researchers, and medical groups such as the American Public Health Association, the National Medical Association, the American Medical Association, the American College of Physicians and the American Academy of Pediatrics each have determined that gun violence is a major threat to public health which will require a public health response. The study required under this bill will enable all levels of government and local jurisdictions to better understand gun violence and better allocate resources to prevent it.

Accordingly, Anne Arundel County respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** report on Senate Bill 1047.

GBC_FAV_SB1047

Uploaded by: Fry, Donald

Position: FAV



TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE SENATE JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS COMMITTEE

SENATE BILL 1047 -- OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL - FIREARM CRIME - STUDY

March 12, 2020

**DONALD C. FRY
PRESIDENT & CEO
GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE**

Position: Support

Senate Bill 1047 requires the Maryland Attorney General to study information regarding gun crimes committed since August 1, 2015, including the number and types of firearm crimes, the jurisdictions where the firearm crimes occurred, and 9-1-1 requests for emergency assistance involving gun crimes. The bill further requires that the study identify whether any arrests were made, whether charges were filed and the disposition of those cases. Reports are required on or before December 1, 2020 with regard to firearm crimes committed from August 1, 2015 through July 31, 2019, and another report to be submitted on or before December 1, 2022 with regard to firearm crimes committed from August 1, 2019 through July 31, 2021.

Firearms are used in most of the violent crime that takes place. In Baltimore City, 309 of the 348 homicides in calendar year 2019 involved a shooting. While some crime data is available, there is a lack of easily-available information to study violent crime data and trends or judicial actions. The GBC is supportive of this bill's specific call for studying firearm crimes to identify whether any arrests were made, whether charges were filed, and the disposition of those cases. This information is currently difficult to determine, which deprives law enforcement officials and policymakers of important data to consider when seeking solutions to deter violent gun crime.

The GBC's *2020 Legislative Priorities* states, "violent crime and public safety concerns threaten the health, well-being, and economic prosperity of our communities. Persistent violent crime rates in Baltimore City require strategic action by state and city officials." The *2020 Legislative Priorities* also identify a need to "improve public accessibility of judicial data . . ." Senate Bill 1047 is consistent with these priorities by collecting and analyzing gun crime data that could aid in creating policies that deter crime.

For these reasons, the Greater Baltimore Committee urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 1047.

The Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) is a non-partisan, independent, regional business advocacy organization comprised of hundreds of businesses -- large, medium and small -- educational institutions, nonprofit organizations and foundations located in Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, and Howard counties as well as Baltimore City. The GBC is a 64-year-old, private-sector membership organization with a rich legacy of working with government to find solutions to problems that negatively affect our competitiveness and viability.

GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

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Beidle_FAV_SB1047

Uploaded by: Senator Beidle, Senator Beidle

Position: FAV

PAMELA G. BEIDLE
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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 12, 2020

SB 1047
Office of the Attorney General - Firearm Crime - Study

Chairman Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss Senate Bill 1047, Office of the Attorney General - Firearm Crime - Study.

SB1047 expands on Chapter 335 of 2019 that requires the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP) to gather specified information on emergency assistance involving a firearm crime. SB 1047 requires the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) to study information regarding firearm crimes committed in the State since August 1, 2015, including:

- the number and types of firearm crimes;
- the jurisdictions where the crime occurred; and
- 911 requests for emergency assistance involving firearms
- whether any arrests were made and, if so, the age of each individual arrested;
- whether any charges were filed and, if so, the specific crimes charged, disposition of each charge, and the age of each individual charged; and
- the type of firearm recovered and whether the firearm had a serial number.

SB 1047 also requires the Attorney General's Office to file reports with the Governor's Office and the General Assembly on its findings and conclusions:

1. December 1, 2020, Firearm crimes committed from August 1, 2015 thru July 31, 2019
2. December 1, 2022, Firearm crimes committed from August 1, 2019 to July 31, 2021.

An amendment asking for information regarding the number of injuries and fatalities of minors and adults; injuries and fatalities by jurisdiction; and injuries and fatalities identified as by suicide, accidental and homicide occurring on or after July 1, 2020 , including has been requested.

I respectfully request a favorable report for an amended SB 1047.

2A_Maryland_FWA_SB_1047

Uploaded by: JOSSELYN, JOHN

Position: FWA



SB 1047

Office of the Attorney General - Firearm Crime – Study FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

While Senate Bill 1047 will produce much of the data we need to verify our position on the failure of gun control legislation to impact the occurrence of crimes involving the presence or use of a firearm, we must take exception to the provision which places the study under the Office of the Attorney General.

This study should be conducted by the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP) and not by the Office of the Attorney General. We base our position on the following facts:

1. The Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention is already conducting a very similar study as mandated by Senate Bill 622 – Chapter 335, which was signed into law in 2019, and is to be complete by December 1, 2020. This is the same date mandated by SB 1047.
2. Some of the data to be captured under SB 1047 is already being collected by GOCCP under SB 622 and there no reason to duplicate a work in progress.
3. There exist strained relations between the Office of the Attorney General and the Office of the State's Attorney for Baltimore. Given that most data will come from Baltimore City, a better outcome is to be expected when the parties involved are not already at odds with one another.
4. Attorney General Brian Frosh is clearly quite biased on the issue of gun control, firearms and crime. The results of any study under the control of Attorney General Frosh will be suspect.

The people of Maryland deserve data they can trust and the best way to earn that trust is to place the study under the auspices of the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention.

We ask for a favorable report only with the amendments noted above.

John H. Josselyn, Director
2A Maryland
March 12, 2020

Stoney Creek Fishng and Hunting Club -UNF-SB 1047

Uploaded by: Mathison, Theodore

Position: UNF

Stoney Creek Fishing & Hunting Club
9090 Ft. Smallwood Rd.
Pasadena, MD 21122

March 12, 2020

SB 1047: Office of the Attorney General – Firearm Crime - Study
Testimony submitted by the Stone Creek Fishing and Hunting Club
Opposed

The Stoney Creek Fishing and Hunting Club, which has some 300 members and has been in existence for over 70 years, is **OPPOSED** to SB 1047. We oppose the Bill for several reasons. First, it would direct the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) to conduct a study on firearms crimes the responsibility for which properly falls under the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP). Secondly, the OAG study that would be authorized by SB 1047 would be duplicative of an ongoing study by the GOCCP. Lastly, the proposed OAG study would be wasteful of tax payer funds

The study proposed under SB 1047, if it is to be conducted at all, should be accomplished by the GOCCP. In 2019, Senate Bill 622, "Office of the Attorney General – Crime Firearms – Study" was submitted to the General Assembly for consideration. However, the Bill was amended to assign responsibility for that study to the GOCCP. SB 622 was subsequently approved by the General Assembly and signed into law.

The GOCCP, which was created in 1995, has as its mission:

"To serve as a coordinating office that advises the Governor on criminal justice strategies. The office plans, promotes and funds efforts with government entities, private organizations, and the community to advance public policy, enhance public safety, reduce crime and juvenile delinquency, and serve victims."

In 2007 the Maryland Statistical Analysis Center was placed within the GOCCP "...to facilitate statewide crime data analysis and sharing to generate effective local policies and solutions." The Center serves "...as a repository for knowledge and tools pertaining to crime and the criminal justice systems of Maryland."

The study proposed by SB 1047 would duplicate in many respects the study directed under SB 622. The latter is very comprehensive and includes: analysis of the number and type of crime firearms; sources of crime firearms, jurisdictions where crime firearms were recovered; the number of charges and convictions involving crime firearms by jurisdiction; sources of crime firearms both out of state and in-state; top 10 dealers of crime firearms in the State; the 10 states where the most crime firearms originated and were subsequently recovered in Maryland; the length of time between the origination and recovery of a crime firearm; and whether individuals found in possession of a crime

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Testimony of Stoney Creek Fishing and Hunting Club
Oppose
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firearm where previously prohibited from possessing a firearm The GOCCP has until December 1, 2020 to complete the study and report its findings to the Governor and the General Assembly.

By comparison, the OAG study proposed under SB 1047 would be conducted in two phases, the first covering the period August 1, 2015 – July 31, 2019 and the second August 1, 2019 through July 31, 2021. Reports would be due to the Governor and General Assembly on December 1, 2020 and December 1, 2022, respectively.

The Fiscal Note in 2019 to SB 622 indicated the cost to the Department of State Police (DSP) to support the ongoing GOCCP study would total \$90,100 for the FY 2020-2021 period and require the hiring of three contractual employees.

The OAG has not provided a cost estimate for the study proposed under SB 1047. It is possible that some of the DSP personnel and financial resources involved with the on going GOCCP study could be used to assist with the proposed OAG study. However, there will be additional costs as the proposed study would be spread over four years vs. 13 months for the GOCCP effort. As noted above, the OAG study would duplicate the ongoing GOCCP analysis, and therefore would be a waste of State manpower and taxpayer dollars. Would it not make sense to complete the current study and examine the results before determining whether yet another study is necessary?

We urge that SB 1047 receive an unfavorable report.



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