

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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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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