

Oppose HB 4

Public Safety - Rifles and Shotguns - Secondary Transactions.

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1/15/20

This bill might as well be named "The Maryland Small Arms Dealers Stimulus Act," because it sure is going to be a boon to gun dealers. They cannot be expected to perform these background checks and transfers for free. It may very well open up lucrative business opportunities for new FFL's to specialize in these transfers. Having more gun dealers in MD is great, but this is not the way I would want to fund it.

It is already illegal to buy a gun for someone else (straw purchase), and it is already illegal to lend, sell, give, etc. a firearm to someone who is prohibited from possessing it. How is making it more illegal going to make any difference?

Is it reasonable to expect "Shifty, The Urban Gang Member," to go to an FFL and arrange a transfer before he borrows a shotgun from a fellow gang member to shoot up the neighborhood? I'm sure other testimony will demonstrate that they use handguns, not long guns for such activities anyway.

It is much more likely that "Bubba, The Big-hearted Redneck," is going to unwittingly run afoul of this by borrowing his buddy's shotgun to shoot clay birds at the family farm over the weekend. He never wanted to hurt anything except clay targets, but now has a criminal record and ruined life.

How is this even going to be enforced?

Everyone agrees that "Shifty, The Urban Gang Member" should never be allowed to touch a firearm, but there has to be a way to accomplish that without trapping "Bubba, The Lovable Redneck." Persecuting "Bubba" like this is a waste of police, prosecution, and corrections resources that should be used to continue to keep the rest of us safe from "Shifty."

Had this been law a few years ago, it would have criminalized me. My best friend (brother by choice, but not enough to qualify for any of the family exemptions), found himself in a temporary living situation where he could not safely store his long gun collection until his new house was ready. His collection spent a month or two in my safe, and no one was hurt. My keeping his guns secure would have required all of them to be transferred to me, or we would both have our lives ruined by this law.

These are not the guns used in Baltimore City's annually record breaking murder rate, nor are they the people involved. Crime prevention efforts and resources would be much more effectively focused elsewhere. Please **Do Not Proceed** with this bill.

Thank you.