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IN SUPPORT, WITH AMENDMENTS, OF HOUSE BILL 47

Public Safety – Handgun Qualification License – Training Exemption

For the following reasons, I SUPPORT House Bill 47, with amendments, and request a favorable report:

- Law enforcement officers receive training that far exceeds that of a four-hour HQL-compliant class.
- The Federal Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act (LEOSA) states:
... enacted in 2004, allows two classes of persons - the "qualified Law Enforcement officer" and the "qualified retired or separated Law Enforcement officer" - to carry a concealed firearm in any jurisdiction in the United States or United States Territories, regardless of state or local laws, with certain exceptions.
These individuals are permitted to carry a concealed firearm in the State of Maryland, but not purchase one without taking additional training.
- Additional unnecessary burdens placed on law enforcement officers fails to enhance public safety, and does not further the interest of the State in same.

The Secretary of the Maryland State Police interprets the current exemptions to HQL training as being applicable only to Federal officers and Maryland State Police. This seems to be in-conflict with Federal LEOSA legislation. I recommend adding an exclusion to Section 5-117.1(a) for active and retired law enforcement individuals who are permitted carry a concealed handgun under Section 926B and Section 926C of LEOSA. This would resolve confusion and conflict between Federal and State laws.

As noted earlier, I request a favorable report to an amended bill.

Respectfully submitted,



James I. McGuire III