



02/25/2020

HOUSE BILL 1257

WORTH-A-SHOT, INC.
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MILLERSVILLE, MD 21108

My name is Donna Worthy. I am the owner of Worth-A-Shot, Inc. in Millersville MD. I am retired from the Baltimore City Police Department with a line of duty injury. I am also on the board of the MLFDA (Maryland Licensed Firearms Dealers Assoc.).

I strongly oppose House Bill 1257 for the following reasons:

Section 5-145

This section requires dealers to create video and audio recordings of all receipts, sales, and other dispositions of firearms conducted at business. This type of requirement is nearly impossible to comply with. Even with multiple cameras installed in every room of the business, it is nearly impossible to capture all conversations clearly, and to capture receipts in a video would be nearly impossible. This is also an issue of invasion of privacy for both store personnel, as well as customers. To have camera surveillance for security and safety is one thing, but to require audio recordings of every transaction to take place in the establishment is clearly an invasion of privacy. I have touched base with many security companies inquiring about a system that would be able to meet this requirement. The companies quoted an astronomical quote but advised that the system would still not be able to capture all receipts and paperwork and without added microphones, may not capture conversations clearly either. This cost would not be possible for many small dealers and would even be a great hardship on larger dealers as well.

Section 5-147

This section discusses anyone working at a firearms dealer must get fingerprint and background checks yearly. Dealers currently cannot let anyone prohibited from possessing firearms have access to any firearms in the store. Most stores already run a background check before hiring anyone that will deal with firearms. However, if the employee has absolutely no involvement in firearms, or firearms sales but work in the establishment for a different job, they are held to the same standard. The average cost to fingerprint each employee would be roughly \$50 per person. This is an extra added yearly expense on the owners, and depending on the number of workers, can be quite costly.

Section 5-150

This section requires dealers to store every firearm in a locking display case or inaccessible area during store hours. Most stores keep all handguns in locking cases even during store hours. The long guns however, are kept behind the counter out of customer reach unless assisted by an employee. This section also requires a trigger lock be installed on every firearm. A locking case, and a trigger lock seems very unnecessary. All firearms displayed are always unloaded. As a former law enforcement officer, I have never recovered a firearm used in a crime from a firearm that was stolen during store hours from a gun store.

Section 5-148

This section requires the dealer to maintain liability insurance for the acts of another using a firearm sold, rented, or transferred by the licensed dealer in the amount of \$2,000,000.

I personally spoke with my insurance company. They advised me that a policy that would cover this does not exist. If a gun store legally sells a firearm to a customer, and a background check was conducted and approved for that customer, how is the store now responsible if later down the road, even 20 years later, a crime is committed with that firearm. This type of policy does not exist, thus would be an impossible standard to meet. In my gun store as well as every other

store I know, we always err on the side of caution. Even if a background check comes back as a proceed, if something seems off, we cancel the transaction.

At Worth-A-Shot Firearms, we take every possible precaution to keep firearms out of prohibited persons possession. We have bars on all windows, security and camera system, and have regular communications with local law enforcement. As a former Baltimore City Police Officer, I understand the importance of keeping firearms out of criminals' hands.

Gun stores are not the issue with gun violence.

Gun stores are under strict guidelines with both the state and the ATF.

I am ready and willing to answer any and all questions. Feel free to call me or email me anytime.

THANK YOU,



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