



## TESTIMONY TO SENATE JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS

### SB338 Handgun Permit-Preliminary Approval

**Position: Unfavorable**

**By: Nancy Soreng, President**

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The League of Women Voters of Maryland **urges an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 338** which would allow for a person to apply for preliminary approval for a handgun permit without first completing a firearms training course. Within 120 days after receipt of preliminary approval an applicant must submit proof of completion of a firearms training course. If no proof of completion of a firearms training course is received the bill states "the secretary shall revoke the preliminary approval and deny the application".

The League supports licensing procedures for gun ownership by private citizens to include a waiting period for background checks, personal identity verification, gun safety education, and annual license renewal. We also support a requirement of a proficiency test as part of the procedure for obtaining a hunting license. The purpose of the test is to assure gun owners can safely operate their firearm.

Daily news of shootings dominates the headlines and many people have grown numb to the violence in our communities. For numerous students, businesses, and workplaces active shooter drills have become something that Americans have grown accustomed to. Allowing citizens to have preliminary permit approval before completing a firearms training course is like issuing a driver's license before someone takes a behind the wheel driving course. Let's reverse this trend of escalating gun violence by ensuring all gun owners are properly trained before receiving a permit.

For these reasons, we urge an **unfavorable** report.