

J. SANDY BARTLETT
Legislative District 32
Anne Arundel County

DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Judiciary Committee

House Chair
Joint Committee on
Legislative Ethics



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 163
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3370 · 301-858-3370
800-492-7122 Ext. 3370
Sandy.Bartlett@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

FAVORABLE: HB3 MARYLAND GUN CENTER – FINAL PROTECTIVE ORDERS

TO: Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Moon and members of the Judiciary Committee

In the 2022 session, the General Assembly passed legislation that introduced the mandate of the Maryland State Gun Center in all jurisdictions. House Bill 3 expands the center to include data collection about firearms that are surrendered under final protection orders. A final protection order must require the respondent to surrender any firearms in the respondent's possession for the duration of the order.

By tracking and recording the instances of surrendered firearms because of a final protective order, Maryland State Police, advocates, and legislators will have data to make data driven decisions. Data is not partisan, and information saves lives.

HB3 expands the Maryland State Police Gun Center to include the tracking, screening, and vetting of all firearms surrendered under final protective orders in the State. The bill requires (1) the center to create and maintain a statewide database to track information on firearms surrendered under final protective orders in the State and (2) each law enforcement agency to report to the center specified information on firearms surrendered under final protective orders issued in the jurisdiction of the law enforcement agency.

Under this expansion, information including the number and types of firearms, the jurisdiction where the firearms are surrendered, age and residence of the gun owner will be collected, and available for analysis in reviewing protective orders and gun surrenders. This data can be used to track firearms used in crimes and enable law enforcement to analyze and solve gun crimes. The Gun Center has the potential to be multifaceted. Tracking firearms surrendered pursuant to a final protective order would be another tool for providing safety to survivors of domestic violence.