



**Maryland**

DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET  
AND MANAGEMENT

WES MOORE  
*Governor*

ARUNA MILLER  
*Lieutenant Governor*

HELENE GRADY  
*Secretary*

MARC L. NICOLE  
*Deputy Secretary*

## **SENATE BILL 784 Comprehensive Community Safety Funding Act**

### **STATEMENT OF SUPPORT**

**DATE:** February 14, 2024

**COMMITTEE:** Budget and Taxation

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Senate Bill 784 would impose an excise tax of 11% on the sale of firearm and firearm accessories. The bill also specifies the distribution of these revenues: 44% to the Maryland Trauma Physician Services Fund; 29% to the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center at the University of Maryland Medical System; 23% to the Violence Intervention and Prevention Program Fund; 2% to the Survivors of Homicide Victims Grant Program within the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy; and 2% to the Center for Firearm Violence Prevention and Intervention within the Maryland Department of Health.

**EXPLANATION:** According to the Comptroller's Office, special fund revenues are projected to increase by \$69 million starting in fiscal 2025, growing to an estimated \$80 million by fiscal 2029.

The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) is charged with submitting a balanced budget to the General Assembly annually and will be working with the General Assembly to achieve structural balance over the long-term. In light of current projected general fund deficits in fiscal 2026 forward, the Department and the Moore Administration overall is supportive of creative solutions to fund key priorities. Public safety is a top priority of the Administration, and the revenue raised by this legislation would be devoted to vital violence prevention and intervention programs in Maryland.

**Position:** DBM supports Senate Bill 784.

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