

MARY BETH CAROZZA
Legislative District 38
Somerset, Wicomico,
and Worcester Counties

Education, Energy, and
the Environment Committee

Executive Nominations Committee



Annapolis Office
James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 316
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3645 · 301-858-3645
800-492-7122 Ext. 3645
Fax 410-841-3006 · 301-858-3006
MaryBeth.Carozza@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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The Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

SB 102 – Public Safety – Handgun Permits – Expiration and Renewal Periods for Retired Law Enforcement Officer by Bill Sponsor Senator Mary Beth Carozza

Thank you, Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the distinguished Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee for allowing me to present Senate Bill 102 – Public Safety – Handgun Permits – Expiration and Renewal Periods for Retired Law Enforcement Officer.

This legislation would extend the expiration and renewal periods of handgun carry permits for law enforcement officers who retired in good standing. Currently, permits are valid for a two-year period after the initial issue date and are valid for three-year periods thereafter. Under this legislation, permits for retired officers in good standing would be valid for five years after the initial issue date and would be renewed every five years thereafter. I introduced similar legislation last session but have tightened it up in the Interim from last year’s proposed seven-year renewal period reduced to this year’s proposed five-year renewal period.

This is a narrowly-focused bill that improves the process for handgun renewal for retired law enforcement officers, and recognizes their years of service, good standing, and training. A fine example of this is retired Maryland State Police Sergeant Joseph Saunders, whose testimony you will see in your packet. He served for 25 years, and like all law enforcement, was properly trained in the use of a handgun before he was even allowed to carry his service weapon and continued to undergo annual training throughout his years of service.

Additionally, this legislation would give Maryland State Police more time to focus on priority matters rather than processing applications from retired law enforcement officers, freeing up valuable and limited resources to support investigations and other forms of police work.

Retired officers have served Maryland with integrity, and many continue to serve their communities through volunteer work or by returning to the workforce in a different capacity. We want to keep our retired law enforcement here in Maryland, and this reasonable extension of the renewal period is a straightforward way to show our appreciation for their past law enforcement service.

Several organizations that have expressed support for this legislation are the Fraternal Order of Police, the Maryland Troopers Association, and the Maryland State Police Alumni Association. Rick Norman of the Maryland Troopers Association and Sarah Jeannie Mastronardi of the Maryland State Police Alumni Association are here to testify in support today.

I truly appreciate your kind attention and consideration, and I respectfully ask for a swift and favorable report on SB 102.