
February 28, 2024

The Honorable Luke Clippinger
Chair, House Judiciary Committee
101 House Office Building
Annapolis MD 21401

RE: Letter of Opposition – House Bill 430 – Firearms – Liability Insurance – Public Wearing and Carrying

Dear Chair Clippinger and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) respectfully opposes House Bill 430 and offers the following information for the Committee’s consideration.

House Bill 430 would prohibit an individual from wearing or carrying a firearm unless that person has obtained liability insurance related to the wearing and carrying of that firearm. As drafted, there is no exemption for public employees and the Maryland Transit Administration Police Force (MTAPF) and Money Runners, both of whom carry firearms, would need to obtain these insurance requirements to continue to perform their necessary duties.

It is not clear if the MTA or the individual would be responsible for the purchase of the insurance. Should it be the MTA, there would be a significant fiscal impact that the MTA has not previously accounted for; if it were the individual, this could negatively impact recruitment and retention efforts, making it difficult for the MTA to fill its current vacancies and ensure safety for transit riders.

For these reasons, the Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee grant House Bill 430 an unfavorable report.

Respectfully submitted,

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