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Finance Committee

Chair

Executive Nominations Committee

Joint Audit and Evaluation Committee

Joint Committee on Ending Homelessness

Joint Committee on Fair Practices and
State Personnel Oversight

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Howard County Senate Delegation

Secretary

Asian-American & Pacific-Islander Caucus

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

SB577 -- Public Safety – Distribution of Literature to Purchasers of Firearms and Ammunition

What the bill does

- MDH must create literature with information on firearm safety, training, suicide prevention, mental health awareness, and conflict resolution to be distributed to and displayed in firearm stores.
- Stores must make this literature visible and available at the point of purchase for firearms or ammunition.
- Penalties include a fine of \$500 or less for a first violation, and \$1,000 or less for subsequent offenses.
- A similar ordinance in Anne Arundel County was found to be constitutional by the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Why this bill is needed

- This bill will ensure that firearm owners are connected with mental health resources and information should they need it.
- Gun ownership has been tied to higher suicide rates¹, so making this information available, especially at point of purchase, could provide someone with a lifeline at little cost to taxpayers.
- Providing literature on safety and training can also serve as a useful refresher for responsible gun owners, and prevent potentially deadly accidents.

¹ <https://med.stanford.edu/news/all-news/2020/06/handgun-ownership-associated-with-much-higher-suicide-risk.html>; <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC4984734/>