



February 19, 2025

House Bill 713

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

House Judiciary Committee

Position: FAVORABLE

Anne Arundel County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 713 – Public Safety - Distribution of Literature to Purchasers of Firearms and Ammunition. This legislation would require local health departments to distribute literature prepared by the Maryland Department of Health in establishments that sell firearms or ammunition.

In 2021, the Anne Arundel County Council passed County Bill 108-21 requiring gun retailers to distribute suicide prevention and conflict resolution pamphlets to customers. This law arose from the work of our Gun Violence Prevention Task Force in an effort to place life-saving information in the hands of those who need it most in order to curb gun-related deaths and suicides through education and targeted interventions. In 2023, there were 737 firearm-related deaths in Maryland.

Although Bill 108-21 was challenged by Maryland Shall Issue, Inc. and four local gun shops, all courts that examined the law have agreed that the law is both constitutional and essential. On October 8, 2024, the United States Supreme Court denied the Petition for Writ of Certiorari filed by challengers, putting to rest efforts to invalidate the law.

Anne Arundel County has recognized gun violence as a public health issue, which includes providing resources to do this important work. House Bill 713 is a safety-focused and common-sense gun law. Providing this information is a good business practice that will improve the safety of gun retail customers and our communities. For all of these reasons, I respectfully request a **FAVORABLE** report on House Bill 713.

Steuart Pittman
County Executive