



### House Bill 713

#### **Public Safety-Distribution of Literature to Purchasers of Firearms & Ammunition UNFAVORABLE**

This bill would impose a perpetual unfunded mandate upon the health departments of 23 Maryland counties and Baltimore City. These jurisdictions have neither the budget nor the personnel to implement and administer the obligations placed upon them.

How the health departments will monitor the sellers and enforce the mandate is unknown. The Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) lists no fewer than 760 federal firearms licensees (FFLs) in Maryland. It will fall upon the individual health departments to discern which FFL holders are selling firearms and/or ammunition and which are not.

The challenge facing the health departments is further increased because an FFL is not required to sell ammunition. These same health departments will now be required to visit every convenience store, “Mom and Pop” grocery and hardware store in their respective jurisdictions to determine which stores are selling ammunition.

HB 713 requires the distribution of literature but is silent on by what means and how often the literature must be distributed and/or restocked in each store.

HB 713 authorizes the local health department to issue citations for non-compliance and unilaterally impose fines. No provisions for “due process” are contained in the bill. Nor is it clear whether the store or the employee will be held responsible for paying any fines imposed.

2A Maryland contacted local health departments and was told the departments were aware of the bills, but they lacked the resources to implement the provisions. Should HB 713 or SB 577 become law, they would be compelled to seek funding from the State.

We urge an unfavorable report on House Bill 713.

Respectfully,

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