

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Institute for Legislative Action

11250 WAPLES MILL ROAD

FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22030



NRA

February 27, 2026

National Rifle Association
11250 Waples Mill Road
Fairfax, VA 22030

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is John Weber and I represent the National Rifle Association and our members in Maryland. The NRA is opposed to Senate Bill 775. This legislation forces federal firearms licensees and local law enforcement to destroy every surrendered firearm and its components under “gun buyback programs,” while adding heavy fines, license revocations, and new bureaucracy. It does nothing to reduce crime and prevents localities from using the commonsense alternative of selling firearms to fund real public safety programs.

First, Maryland localities and law enforcement agencies can already operate gun buyback programs and destroy surrendered firearms if they choose to do so. Current state law contains no prohibition on voluntary community collection drives or police amnesty events. SB 775 grants no new authority, it simply adds statewide mandates that require total destruction for any program that advertises reducing guns in the community.

Second, the firearms collected could be sold to licensed dealers or qualified buyers after proper checks. Proceeds could directly fund other initiatives or equipment for the very agencies running the programs. Mandating destruction instead wastes valuable public resources and throws away assets that law abiding citizens could lawfully own.

Third, the bill’s vague definitions create enforcement headaches and expose local agencies and dealers to \$10,000 fines and license revocation for routine events they already run successfully. This diverts scarce law enforcement resources from actual police work to paperwork and compliance.

Finally, decades of data show these programs have no measurable impact on violent crime as criminals do not participate. SB 775 simply adds another unnecessary restriction in a state that already has some of the nation’s toughest gun laws.

In closing, Maryland localities already have the flexibility they need. SB 775 offers no public safety benefit, wastes taxpayer resources, and blocks the practical solution of selling recovered firearms to fund prevention efforts. The NRA respectfully urges the committee to oppose SB 775.

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Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Weber". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John Weber
State Director
NRA-ILA