

HB 94
Public Safety – Handgun Permits – Expiration and Renewal Periods for
Retired Law Enforcement Officer

FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

I support changing the period where a permit to wear and carry a firearm is valid to FIVE years for all law-abiding citizens. As currently written, this legislation would establish an exemption and special category for a group of citizens, retired law enforcement officers, however all Maryland citizens have equal protection under the law. I ask that you support this bill if amended to apply the five-year renewals to ALL law-abiding citizens.

Dr. John Lott has been publishing his statistical analysis on all things crime and firearm related via the Crime Prevention and Research Center since 2013 and has been producing annual reports on the number of concealed handgun permits since 2014. The latest, **Concealed Carry Permit Holders Across the United States: 2024**, explores the exponential growth in the number of permit holders over the years and shows a continual linear drop in the violent crime rate as lawful carry has increased, going back to 2004. See: (https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=5040077). While retired law enforcement officers are indeed law-abiding, the same is true for permit holders, nationwide. A carve-out of special privileges for a particular group of citizens is unjustified and unnecessary.

Previous studies by Dr. John Lott have also shown that the cost of concealed handgun permits can have two effects: it determines the number of people who get permits and the type of people who get them. Empirical research shows that the people who are the most likely victims of violent crime – people of limited financial means who live in high crime urban areas – are the ones who benefit the most from having concealed handgun permits. Higher costs and more frequent training periods/renewals have a disproportionate impact, thereby disenfranchising a group of people.

I respectfully request that HB 94 be amended to apply the five-year renewals to ALL law-abiding Maryland citizens.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
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