

GARY SIMMONS
Legislative District 12B
Anne Arundel County

Judiciary Committee
Subcommittees

Criminal Law and Procedure
Family and Juvenile Law



The Maryland House of Delegates
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
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Good afternoon, Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the Committee,

HB875 takes a practical, balanced, and public-health-centered approach to firearm safety. The bill requires that educational literature prepared by the Maryland Department of Health be made available to individuals when they purchase firearms or ammunition. The information includes safe storage practices, suicide prevention resources, mental health supports, and conflict resolution services.

This legislation does not restrict Second Amendment rights. It does not limit who may purchase a firearm. It does not impose new eligibility requirements. Instead, it ensures that purchasers receive important safety information at a critical moment when a firearm enters a home.

Anne Arundel County enacted similar legislation in 2022. Under that local model, the Health Department prepares and distributes literature, and retailers make it visible and available to purchasers. The law has been implemented without disrupting lawful commerce, and it has withstood legal challenge in federal court. That local experience demonstrates that this policy is workable, constitutional, and enforceable.

We know that in Maryland and across the nation, a significant percentage of firearm deaths are suicides. Public health research consistently shows that providing information about safe storage and crisis resources can reduce risk, particularly during crises. Sometimes, a simple brochure with a hotline number or storage guidance can make the difference between tragedy and prevention.

Maryland has long taken a comprehensive approach to public safety, one that respects constitutional rights while prioritizing community well-being. HB875 continues that tradition by promoting informed, responsible decision-making without creating undue burdens on small businesses or lawful gun owners.

At its core, this bill affirms a simple principle: when we can provide life-saving information at minimal cost and minimal intrusion, we should.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on HB875.

Sincerely,

Delegate Gary Simmons
Maryland State legislator
Anne Arundel County, District 12b