

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 851 (Montgomery County Delegation and Prince George's County Delegation)

Judiciary

Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission - Prince George's County - Prohibition of Gun Shows
MC/PG 123-01

This bill prohibits “gun shows” on Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) land or other property located in Prince George’s County. The bill specifically exempts firearms sold or transferred at the Prince George’s County Trap and Skeet Center from the prohibition.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Minimal. The M-NCPPC would lose a total of \$30,000 in property use fees annually. There would be no effect on the finances of Prince George’s County. The civil penalty provisions applicable to this bill’s prohibitions are not expected to significantly affect local finances or operations.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful.

Analysis

Current Law: The State’s regulation of firearm transactions does not speak to where such dealings may or may not take place.

Background: Unless specified in statute, all infractions of M-NCPPC rules and regulations are considered to be civil offenses and subject to the issuance of citations by

M-NCPPC police officers. The M-NCPPC is authorized to pre-set fines of up to \$30 for all such first offense violations, and up to \$60 for repeat offenders. Even if an offender elects to stand trial, and have the case heard in the District Court, all related fines, penalties, or forfeitures must be remitted to the M-NCPPC.

Local Fiscal Effect: Currently, there is one organization that operates gun shows on M-NCPPC property at the Show Place Arena in Prince George's County. Three separate shows are held on three separate dates annually. M-NCPPC collects \$10,000 for each show. Accordingly, the commission would lose \$30,000 annually in property use fees now collected from gun show operators.

Small Business Effect: It is assumed that the one gun show operator who currently runs three gun shows per year would have to find another affordable site for the three shows (either elsewhere in Prince George's County or in another jurisdiction) or cease these operations. A termination of operations could have a meaningful negative impact on that business.

In addition, this bill could negatively impact any firearm vendors who are small businesses and who currently do business at the existing gun shows on M-NCPPC property. The extent of such an impact would depend upon the importance of the sales and revenues currently experienced at the shows. Such an impact could also be meaningful.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 175 of 2000 (withdrawn) would have prohibited the sale, rental, transfer, or purchase of any regulated firearm within 1,000 feet of a child care center, elementary or secondary school, or place of worship. Such a prohibition would have also limited the available sites for gun shows in Prince George's County.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Prince George's County, Montgomery County, Department of Legislative Services

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jm/jr

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