



**State of Maryland**  
**Department of State Police**  
Government Affairs Section  
Annapolis Office (410) 260-6100

**POSITION ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

**DATE:** February 4, 2020

**BILL NUMBER:** House Bill 29

**POSITION:** Letter of Concern

**BILL TITLE:** **Secondhand Precious Metal Object Dealers and Pawnbrokers – Exemptions for Auctioneers**

**REVIEW AND ANALYSIS:**

This legislation seeks to exempt auctioneers who conduct auctions of precious metal objects owned by an estate from the licensing and regulatory requirements for secondhand precious metal object dealers and pawnbrokers. This legislation would provide a carve out for auctioneers, exempting them from reporting as well as other rules followed by all other licensees.

For a number of years, the Maryland Department of State Police has been working with the counties and the Maryland General Assembly to standardize licensing and reporting requirements for secondhand property transaction laws. Our success is measured by the amount of property recovered by law enforcement. Statewide, the RAPID Unit reports over \$13 million in stolen property has been recovered and returned. It is because of the business community working with law enforcement and the Maryland General Assembly that we have been very successful. Our partnership with the industry and legislature in working on legislation together has helped this program be a model in the nation.

The MDSP has concerns when one particular business entity wants an exemption. Once its granted at the state level, local law enforcement has to change some of their processes as well. MDSP believes all dealers should be playing by the same rules. Making exceptions for some dealers creates problems for others such as an unfair competitive advantage. Suddenly every dealer is selling precious metals from an estate as this legislation does not require anyone to verify the appointment by the court nor where the property came from.