

Support SB 198

Public Safety - Permit to Carry, Wear, or Transport a Handgun - Qualifications

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Right now, in order to qualify for a ccw permit in Maryland, I'd have to either be a business owner or have already survived an attack on my life and be in fear of another. The latter scenario seems an awful lot like closing the barn door after the horses have gotten out, and I'm thankful that it does not apply to me, yet. I am not among the wealthy elite who owns a business. I'm just a regular hard working guy who wants to be able to protect his family. Aren't our lives worth protecting?

Maryland already has an extensive training, fingerprinting, and background check process, the Handgun Qualification License (HQL) to even purchase a handgun. I have probably been investigated more thoroughly than many members of Congress. Despite passing all of that vetting to purchase the handgun, I have to keep it locked up at home. Isn't it common sense that, if I'm safe and sane enough to own it, I can be trusted to carry it?

This bill does not remove any of the fees or additional training requirements (in fact, there is another bill in the works to actually increase them). It does not make it any easier for the thugs in Baltimore to shoot up the city. They seem to carry without training, fees, or permits already. It does give good, trained and vetted people like my wife and me a chance to defend ourselves before being victimized.

If I can own it, I should be able to carry it. That's just common sense.

When was the last time you have heard on the news of mass shooting (or any shooting) initiated by someone legally carrying a firearm with a permit? I cannot think of any, can you? There is a website dedicated to compiling stories of "ccw holders gone bad" called "concealedcarrykillers.org." It is a clearly biased and agenda driven site that claims that 1358 people have been murdered by ccw holders since 2007 in *the entire country*. Baltimore city alone has that many murders every four years. Reading the accounts described on the website with just a little critical thinking shows that the vast majority of these cases do not even involve the use of the ccw permit. Many of them use rifles or go home to get their guns with the intent of committing murders. Having a permit does not grant license to plan a murder, and not having a permit would certainly not have dissuaded them.

You will hear, if you have not already, about the tragedy of the shooting at the Capital Gazette and how Wendi Winters bought escape time for others with her life. She attacked the assailant with a recycle bin, and was subsequently killed. Clearly, she had the will to fight, but not the tools. Perhaps if she had firearm herself, she might have had a chance. Perhaps she still would not have wanted a firearm, but it would have been nice for her (and all Marylanders) to have that option. I would certainly would like the option to choose more effective means of defending my loved ones than recycle bins and trash cans.

Please support this bill.
Thank you.