



Bill Number: SB208

Title: Public Safety- Rifles and Shotguns- Secondary Transactions

Committee: Judicial Proceedings

Hearing Date: February 5, 2020

Position: Support

Maryland currently has laws which prohibit those with dangerous histories, specifically people who have been convicted of crimes of violence, domestic violence, and those who have been made subject to an Extreme Risk Protective Order. This population has been recognized as posing a clear danger to themselves and others. There are, however, some critical gaps in the purchasing processes which SB208 specifically addresses.

It is currently far too easy for those prohibited from purchasing a firearm to buy rifles and shotguns from unlicensed sellers. These guns can be purchased without background checks or other safeguards. In fact, federal law only requires a background check on guns that are purchased through licensed gun dealers. This means that purchase through unlicensed dealers such as those purchased over the internet or at gun shows are not held to the standard of background checks.

On behalf of victims of domestic violence and their children, MNADV supports the important step of closing this gap through SB208.