

**Stoney Creek Fishing & Hunting Club**  
**9090 Ft. Smallwood Rd.**  
**Pasadena, MD 21122**

March 11, 2020

**SB 664: Declaration of Rights – Right to Privacy**  
**Oppose**

The Stoney Creek Fishing and Hunting Club (SCF&HC), which has some 300 members and has been in existence for over 70 years, **STRONGLY OPPOSES SB 664**.

We oppose the Bill because it denies a significant segment of Maryland citizens a right to privacy but grants this right to other citizens of the State. Secondly, the Bill violates Section 1, XIV Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

SB 664 proposes amending the Maryland Declaration of Rights by adding a new Article 48. The proposed article would set forth:

- (A) That each individual has a natural, essential, and inherent right to privacy that guarantees freedom from government intrusion.
- (B) The right to privacy includes the right of an individual to live free from intrusion caused by or directly traceable to the unauthorized collection of data concerning the individual by another.
- (C) The right to privacy does not prohibit the State from regulating the sale or purchase of a firearm or ammunition. (Highlighting Added)
- (D) The right to privacy may not be infringed without a showing of a compelling State interest.
- (E) (1.) The General Assembly may protect the right to privacy through appropriate legislation.  
(2) The Governor may enforce the right to privacy through appropriate Executive Action.

We of the SCF&HC support the right of all Maryland citizens to the right of privacy. However, we are appalled by the proposed carve out of law abiding, legitimate firearms owners (Section C above) from this right. The State has regulated firearms and ammunition for decades, so why now must the authority to do so be spelled out in an amendment to the Maryland Declaration of Rights? The intent not to extend the right of privacy to firearms owners is patently obvious. We fear the intent of Section C of the amendment is to subject firearm owners to search and seizure actions without a warrant. If this is not the intent, then why is Section C included, as no other segments of Maryland's society are enumerated in the text?

SCF&HC was founded soon after the end of World War II in 1945. The Club was founded by a number of veterans of that war who wanted a place to practice and continue the competitive firearm skills they had learned in military service.

SB 664: Declaration of Rights – Right to Privacy  
Testimony of Stoney Creek Fishing and Hunting Club  
Oppose  
March 11, 2020  
Page 2

Today, the membership includes a number of military veterans, retirees, active law enforcement personnel, business owners, and professional people. It is a very diverse membership that includes a number of women all of whom enjoy the shooting sports.

The Club has supported the Maryland Department of the Environment Hunter Safety program for many years. We have trained over 4,000 adults and youngsters in the safe handling of firearms and how to hunt as respectful guardians of the outdoor environment. Yet, despite the service of these individuals to their Country, the State and communities, they are now being singled out and treated as though they are no longer citizens of the State. The intent of SB 6644 is shameful at best.

We oppose the Bill as well because it violates the XIV Amendment of the U.S. Constitution which states:

Section 1. All persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

Clearly SB 664 with the carve out of firearms owners runs afoul of the XIV Amendment, in particular, the denial of the “equal protection” provision.

Again, we are appalled by the apparent attempt in SB 664 to deny a significant segment of Maryland’s citizens the rights afforded to all other citizens of the State.

We urge in the strongest terms that SB 664 receive an unfavorable report.



Theodore E. Mathison  
Ch, Legislative Committee,  
410-987-9591;  
Email: tem2@verizon.net