



January 15, 2020

House Bill 4

Public Safety - Rifles and Shotguns - Secondary Transactions

Committee: Judiciary

Position: FAVORABLE

House Bill 4 would require, with specified exceptions, that a licensed firearms dealer facilitate the “transfer” of a rifle or shotgun.

In response to the alarming trend of violent acts committed by individuals using guns as the preferred weapon of choice, County Executive Pittman appointed the Anne Arundel County Gun Violence Prevention Task Force (“GVPTF”) in April 2019. The task force explored the latest research, compiled relevant data, identified best practices from other jurisdictions, and issued its preliminary recommendations in December 2019. Those recommendations include a broad range of fact-based proposals and intervention strategies that can be implemented at the local level to prevent gun violence before it occurs. This bill is one of the strategies identified in that report.

In addition to stronger preventative actions, the report calls for enhanced gun safety measures. The recommendations were developed through the lens of public health and reflect the growing consensus within the public health community that firearm-related deaths and injuries have reached epidemic levels. In just the last five years, 107 suicides and 57 murders involving guns occurred in Anne Arundel County. Public health organizations, academic researchers, and medical groups such as the American Public Health Association, the National Medical Association, the American Medical Association, the American College of Physicians and the American Academy of Pediatrics each have determined that gun violence is a major threat to public health which will require a public health response. This bill, which would subject transfers of rifles and shotguns to the same legal requirements as sales by licensed dealers, is an important component of that response.

For these reasons, Anne Arundel County urges a **FAVORABLE** report on HouseBill 4.