



March 4, 2020

**House Bill 591**

**Public Safety – Lost or Stolen Regulated Firearm – Reporting**

**House Judiciary Committee**

**Position: FAVORABLE**

Anne Arundel County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 591 - Public Safety – Lost or Stolen Regulated Firearm – Reporting. This Bill increases the penalties for failure to report the loss or theft of a regulated firearm.

In response to the alarming trend of violent acts committed by individuals using guns as the preferred weapon of choice, County Executive Steuart Pittman appointed the Anne Arundel County Gun Violence Prevention Task Force (GVPTF) in April 2019. The task force subsequently explored the latest research, compiled relevant facts and 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. One of the task force recommendations was to support gun safety legislation at every level of government, including stricter controls on reporting of lost and stolen firearms.

In addition to stronger preventative actions, the GVPTF report calls for expanded public outreach and education, shared data collection and 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. 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 is an additional method to ensure firearms do not fall into the hands of those who should not have access to them.

Accordingly, Anne Arundel County respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** report on House Bill 591