

Delegates Hartman, Anderton, Buckel, Cox, Hornberger, Krebs, Long, Malone, Mautz, McComas, Otto, Reilly, Saab, and Szeliga

HOUSE BILL 1502; Handgun Permits – Qualifications – High Risk Occupations

POSITION: SUPPORT- Amendment

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed are my own and do not represent any other person, organization, agency, or corporation public or private.

Appreciation: I first want to thank the Maryland State Police Licensing Division and their personnel for the professional interactions I have experienced both personally, and in reviewing issues related to public safety policy in 2013 (Task Force on Mental Health and Guns).

As noted, there are provisions for certain professionals to obtain a license but it should be just by documentation of employment or professional activities even if retired.

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS REQUIRED PER HANDGUN PERMIT CATEGORY:

b) Professional Activities: Doctors, Pharmacies, etc., Must show evidence of legitimacy of business activity and valid certification or license.

c) Correctional Officers: Must submit verification of employment and documentation of threats and assaults.

d) Former Police Officer: If you have resigned or retired, you must show evidence of your tenure in law enforcement, such as a letter from your Agency

I write in support of this bill, to ease the burden on person's working in inherently dangerous job classifications obtaining a CCW **permit off duty. On duty, it is at the employers' discretion** to change job classification requirements to decide if an employee can carry in the course of employment. I have learned there are many reasons an employer may not permit an employee to carry in the course of employment.

Last year, some Public Safety and Correctional employees including Parole and Probation Agents and some other job classifications were moved to the 20 year State Retirement System. Perhaps these employees should now be permitted to carry in the course of employment.

The problem that arises is once a person is retired, or changes essential job duties (i.e. direct practice to administration, etc.) from the prior professional dangerous activities the threat does not cease, when those previous activities affected adverse consequences (such as reports to the Court or other agencies which may have resulted in incarceration, loss of monetary award, etc.).

I submit, active employees in the occupations noted and other classifications of employment (ie. social workers and psychologists in Correctional settings) should be allowed to obtain a CCW permit to carry off duty as an inherent apprehended threat is always present.

PROPOSED LANGUAGE:

OR IS EMPLOYED AS:

A. A CORRECTIONAL OFFICER;

B. A PAROLE AND PROBATION OFFICER;

C. A FIREFIGHTER;

D. AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN;

E. A RESCUE SQUAD MEMBER;

F. A SECURITY GUARD FOR A CHURCH OR RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION;

G. A PHYSICIAN;

H. A PHYSICIAN'S ASSISTANT;

I. A NURSE;

J. A NURSE PRACTITIONER.

In addition to the listed SPECIFIC categories, I suggest the following language be added FOR CLARITY AND COPREHENSIVNESS:

(Copied directly from: Family Investment Administration: TDAP Medical Report Form 500-C (REVISED 4/2019)).

K. A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER WITH INDEPENDENT DIAGNOSTIC AUTHORITY, WHO IS AUTHORIZED TO EVALUATE, DETERMINE IMPAIRMENT, AND INDEPENDENTLY TREAT MEDICAL, MENTAL AND/OR EMOTIONAL DISORDERS AND CONDITIONS, AND WHO IS PROVIDING SERVICES ACCORDING TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE APPROPRIATE PROFESSIONAL BOARD.

**L. DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, CHILD AND ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES
DIRECT SERVICE PERSONNEL**

M. DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE: JUVENILE SERVICES CASE WORKER (DIRECT PRACTICE)

N. LICENSED OR CERTIFIED ADDICTION COUNSELOR

Hope this information may be useful.

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