

Daniel Carlin-Weber

SB309 - Favorable

January 15, 2021

Firearms - Handgun Permit - Preliminary Approval

I am a firearms instructor and advocate of responsible firearms handling and ownership. Currently, I am certified by the Maryland State Police as a Qualified Handgun Instructor, Utah Concealed Firearm Permit Instructor, and NRA Range Safety Officer and Basic Pistol Instructor. Since 2016, I have instructed Marylanders of all walks on how to safely operate firearms and the responsibilities that come with their usage. I come before you today to urge a favorable report of Senate Bill 309.

Currently, the application process for a Maryland Wear and Carry Permit requires that an applicant complete a 16-hour training course BEFORE submitting their application to the Maryland State Police. As you may know, Maryland law requires many factors be satisfied before they're issued a permit, such as having a "good and substantial reason" and that they not be prohibited by law from possessing firearms, among other things. The required training course typically costs in the window of \$300 and up and they are not always immediately available. Moving the training requirement to after the State Police have otherwise approved an applicant is substantially more fair and wouldn't compromise the State Police's ability to vet applicants. Applicants would still need their background check, fees, fingerprints,

and complete application before submission and the State Police would only issue the permit once the applicant is approved and their training completed.

Despite modeling most of their concealed carry laws after Maryland's, Washington D.C. has offered preliminary approval from the very start. Applicants have 45 days to complete training after the Metropolitan Police have investigated applicants and given approval. More information can be found on D.C.'s application process here: <https://dcmv.seamlessdocs.com/f/InstructionsForConcealedCarryPistolLicenseApplication>

Preliminary approval is fair and respects the time and finances of each applicant. It is for these reasons that I urge the committee issue a favorable report.

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