

SB 309 Handgun Permit – Preliminary Approval

In the Senate - Hearing 1/19 at 11:00 a.m.

I support this bill with a recommended amendment:

Instead of “within 120 days” change to “within 12 months.”

I agree that the onus of paying \$300 to \$800 for the minimum required training (16 hours) with a Maryland State Police Licensed Instructor is a major barrier to citizens obtaining a permit to wear and carry a loaded, regulated firearm. This training is expensive and difficult to afford, especially for minorities and the disabled – especially those citizens residing in Baltimore City.

The cost (\$75 in state fees, another \$50 to \$75 for fingerprints) is already a challenge to the working class, the unemployed, the under-employed residents. However, allowing citizens to proceed and obtain a Conditional approval following a background check benefits all.

The amendment to permit training “within 12 months” is necessary, as it is increasingly difficult to find an open seat in a firearms training class, due to the COVID 19 restrictions and the lack of open firearms ranges across the State.

Authorizing a person to apply for preliminary approval of a permit to wear, carry, or transport a handgun without completing a certified firearms training course; requiring the Secretary of State Police to investigate an application for a handgun permit; requiring the Secretary to issue preliminary approval if the applicant meets certain requirements except the certified firearms training course; requiring an applicant to satisfy the firearms training requirement within 120 days after receipt of preliminary approval; etc

Signed;

Michael Burke

PO Box 23111

Baltimore, MD 21203