

Submitted by: James I. McGuire III
Ijamsville, MD
District 4
09 February 2021

2021 SESSION

SENATE BILL 0479

Public Safety – Access to Firearms – Storage Requirements

- OPPOSED -

Sirs -

Again, I am writing to the Maryland General Assembly in opposition to proposed legislation. SB-479 is a drift-net of speculative criminality. This is absurd. Let's examine one section of the text:

(c) (1) A person may not store or leave a [~~loaded~~] firearm in a location where the person knew or should have known that an unsupervised [~~child would~~] MINOR COULD gain access to the firearm.

By this text, no actual minor need be present, only that a firearm could possibly be accessed by one (should he magically appear out of thin air.) It is unclear how this speculative "gain access" event would be evaluated and by whom.

Further, the "accessibility" criterion for a "minor" changes drastically from youth to near-adulthood. Placing a firearm on a high-shelf well out of "access" to a toddler would still be in violation because a fictitious-but-not-present 17-year-old could easily gain access.

There is so much more wrong with this legislation, but I am content to stop here. SB-479 is one of the worst bills I have had the displeasure of reading and responding to. Y'all should be embarrassed to put something this bad out for consideration.

I strongly urge an **unfavorable report**.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jo J. McGuire III", with a stylized flourish at the end.

James I. McGuire III