



Olivia Bartlett, DoTheMostGood Maryland Team

Committee: Judicial Proceedings

Testimony on: SB0309 - Handgun Permit – Preliminary Approval

Position: Unfavorable

Hearing Date: January 19, 2021

Bill Contact: Senator Hough

DoTheMostGood (DTMG) is a progressive grassroots organization with more than 2000 members who live in a wide range of communities in Montgomery and Frederick Counties, from Bethesda near the DC line north to Frederick and from Potomac east to Silver Spring and Olney. DTMG supports legislation and activities that keep its members healthy in a safe environment. DTMG strongly opposes SB0309 because it will loosen the requirement for adequate training before getting a permit for a handgun in Maryland.

Maryland law requires anyone wanting to buy, rent or license a new handgun to have taken a training class on Maryland handgun laws, basic handgun safety, and operation and maintenance of a handgun. This is a very low bar to ensure the safety of our residents and our communities. According to the Maryland State Police website, there are more than 1500 Qualified Handgun Instructors throughout every corner of Maryland, so obtaining this required training is not difficult.

SB0309 will allow someone who has not had any handgun safety training to get a preliminary handgun permit and have a new handgun for 120 days before taking the required training. That's 4 months in which the untrained new handgun owner will put him/herself, family members, neighbors, and community members at risk. This is just dangerous. Despite much of the national focus on homicide gun deaths, roughly two-thirds of all firearm-related deaths are suicides.

SB0309 will also create a lot of new paperwork and costly follow-up requirements for handgun owners and dealers, as well as the State Police, who will then have to track each new preliminary approval permit and verify that the new owner does, in fact, take the required training in the required 120-day period. Retrieving a handgun from new owners who do not take the training during the specified 120-day period will also be a new burden on Maryland State Police.

Therefore, DTMG strongly opposes SB0309 and urges an **UNFAVORABLE** report on this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

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