

2021-03-31 (Crossover) HB 1186 (Support).pdf

Uploaded by: Jung, Roy

Position: FAV

BRIAN E. FROSH
Attorney General



ELIZABETH F. HARRIS
Chief Deputy Attorney General

CAROLYN QUATTROCKI
Deputy Attorney General

STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

FACSIMILE NO.

WRITER'S DIRECT DIAL NO.

410-576-6584

March 31, 2021

TO: The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Hannibal G. Williams II Kemerer
Chief Counsel for Legislative Affairs, Office of the Attorney General

RE: (Crossover) HB1186 – Office of the Attorney General – Firearm Crime, Injuries,
Fatalities, and Crime Firearms – Study – **Letter of Support**

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and distinguished Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee, the Office of the Attorney General urges a favorable report on HB 1186.

During the 2020 session, the General Assembly passed House Bill 1629, legislation requiring the Office of the Attorney General to produce a firearm crime, injuries, and fatalities study. The law went into effect on June 1, 2020. The first of three reports required by the bill was due on December 1, 2020. Despite our efforts to solicit data from over 150 law enforcement agencies throughout the State, some jurisdictions were unable to compile and report the data in a timely manner during the COVID-19 pandemic. Consequently, we informed the bill's sponsor, Chair Clippinger of the House Judiciary Committee, that the initial report would be delayed. We are gratified that the Chair Clippinger of the House Judiciary Committee introduced HB 1186 to extend the time for our first report to December 1, 2021, and to make corresponding changes to the second and third reports so that they are now due on December 1, 2022, and December 1, 2023, respectively.

For the foregoing reasons, the Office of the Attorney General urges a favorable report on HB 1186.

cc: Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

HB1186_JPR_MNADV_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Shapiro, Melanie

Position: FAV



BILL NO: House Bill 1186
TITLE: Office of the Attorney General - Firearm Crime, Injuries, Fatalities, and Crime Firearms - Study Extension
COMMITTEE: Judicial Proceedings
HEARING DATE: March 31, 2021
POSITION: **SUPPORT**

The Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV) is the state domestic violence coalition that brings together victim service providers, allied professionals, and concerned individuals for the common purpose of reducing intimate partner and family violence and its harmful effects on our citizens. **MNADV urges the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to issue a favorable report on HB 1186.**

In 2020, there were 56 individuals in Maryland that lost their lives due to domestic violence. Guns were the cause of 75% of those deaths. This is the highest number of domestic violence deaths in five years. MNADV believes that the study in HB 1186 could help identify critical information that could be used to develop policy and hopefully prevent further domestic violence deaths.

Higher rates of firearm ownership correlate to a higher rate of domestic violence homicide according to a 2019 study.¹ There is a 65% higher incidence rate of domestic firearm homicide in the states with the highest firearm ownership compared to states with lower ownership rates.² Since women are the most common victims of domestic violence homicide, they are most at risk with increased gun ownership.³ Black women are disproportionately the victims of domestic violence homicide with a firearm with an estimated 51.3% of Black adult female homicides found to be related to intimate partner violence.⁴ The risk of homicide for women increases by 500% with the presence of a gun in the home.⁵

Guns are used in a variety of ways by perpetrators of domestic violence. Guns are not only used by abusers to shoot their victims but are used to threaten a victim, intimidate a victim, and used to pistol-

¹ Kivisto, A.J., Magee, L.A., Phalen, P.L., Ray, B.R. (2019). Firearm ownership and domestic versus nondomestic homicide in the U.S. American Journal of Preventive Medicine, Abstract: [https://www.ajpmonline.org/article/S0749-3797\(19\)30197-7/fulltext#articleInformation](https://www.ajpmonline.org/article/S0749-3797(19)30197-7/fulltext#articleInformation)

² Merovsh, Sarah. "Gun Ownership Rates Tied to Domestic Homicides, but Not Other Killings, Study Finds," NY Times, (July 22, 2019) <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/07/22/us/gun-ownership-violence-statistics.html>

³ *Id.*

⁴ Petrosky, E., Blair, J.M., Betz, C.J., Fowler, K.A., Jack, S.P.D., & Lyons, B.H. (2017). Racial and ethnic differences in homicides of adult women and the role of intimate partner violence - United States, 2003-2014. MMWR. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, 66(28), 741-746. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/wr/pdfs/mm6628a1.pdf>.

⁵ The National Domestic Violence Hotline, Retrieved 1/29/21, <https://www.thehotline.org/resources/safety-planning-around-guns-and-firearms/>

For further information contact Melanie Shapiro • Public Policy Director • 301-852-3930 • mshapiro@mnadv.org



whip a victim.⁶ Approximately 4.5 million American women alive today have been threatened by intimate partners with firearms and 1 million have been shot or shot at by their abusers.⁷ Women who are threatened or assaulted with a gun are 20 times more likely than other women to be murdered.⁸

For the above stated reasons, the **Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence urges a favorable report on HB 1186.**

⁶ Zeoli, A.M., *Non-Fatal Firearm Uses in Domestic Violence*, The Battered Women's Justice Project, 2017.
<https://www.preventdvgunviolence.org/nonfatal-gun-dv-zeoli-.pdf>

⁷ Sorenson, S. B., & Schut, R. A. (2016). Nonfatal gun use in intimate partner violence: A systematic review of the literature. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*

⁸ Campbell, J. C., Webster, D., Koziol-McLain, J., Block, C. R., Campbell, D., Curry, M. A., Gary, F., McFarlane, J., Sachs, C., Sharps, P., Ulrich, Y., & Wilt, S. A. (2003, November). *Assessing Risk Factors for Intimate Partner Homicide*. Washington, DC: National Institute of Justice (NIJ). p.16. <https://www.fcadv.org/sites/default/files/Campbell%2020032.pdf>