



**BILL NO:** House Bill 966  
**TITLE:** Public Safety - Handgun Qualification License - Training Exemption  
**COMMITTEE:** Judiciary  
**HEARING DATE:** March 3, 2021  
**POSITION:** **OPPOSE**

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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 House Judiciary Committee to issue an unfavorable report on HB 966.**

House Bill 966 would expand the exceptions to the requirement for firearm training necessary to obtain a firearm handgun qualifications license in Maryland if the individual is a law enforcement officer in Delaware, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, or Washington, DC. Public Safety Article § 5117.1 already contains six exceptions to the training requirement, including if the individual (1) has completed a certified firearms training course approved by the Secretary; (2) has completed a course of instruction in competency and safety in the handling of firearms prescribed by the Department of Natural Resources under § 10-301.1 of the Natural Resources Article; (3) is a qualified handgun instructor; (4) is an honorably discharged member of the armed forces of the United States or the National Guard; (5) is an employee of an armored car company and has a permit issued under Title 5, Subtitle 3 of this article; or (6) lawfully owns a regulated firearm.

MNADV opposes the expansion of these existing exceptions. Law enforcement officers from Delaware, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, or Washington, DC likely already qualify under existing law for the waiver of training course for the handgun qualification license. HB 966 does not outline the process to be used to verify that the individual is actually a law enforcement officer, what their training requirements entail, the background and vetting process for hiring, and any disciplinary complaints and process during the course of their employment as a law enforcement officer.

For the above stated reasons, the **Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence urges an unfavorable report on HB 966.**