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**OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**

FACSIMILE NO.

WRITER'S DIRECT DIAL NO.

410-576-6584

February 10, 2022

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

From: Office of the Attorney General

Re: SB0327 – Public Safety – Permit to Carry, Wear, or Transport a Handgun –  
Qualifications – **Letter of Opposition**

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The Office of the Attorney General urges the Judicial Proceedings Committee to unfavorably report Senate Bill 327, Senator Ready's bill to establish personal protection or self-defense as good and substantial reasons to carry, wear, or transport a handgun in Maryland.

Senate Bill 327 would undercut Maryland's existing firearms laws by enabling anyone who claims they need a gun for personal protection to obtain a license. Under current law, someone can obtain a handgun qualification license ("HQL") if they have "not exhibited a propensity for violence or instability that may reasonably render [their] possession of a handgun a danger to the person or to another; and has good and substantial reason to wear, carry, or transport a handgun, such as a finding that the permit is necessary as a reasonable precaution against apprehended danger." If enacted, SB 327 would undermine this careful balance and make firearm possession ubiquitous.

For all of the foregoing reasons, the Office of the Attorney General urges the Committee to unfavorably report Senate Bill 327.

cc: Senator Ready & Committee Members