

JACK BAILEY  
Legislative District 29  
Calvert and St. Mary's Counties

Judicial Proceedings Committee



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
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February 16, 2022

**Senate Bill 456 – Firearms – Handgun Qualification License – Firearms Orientation Component**

Dear Chairman Smith and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to introduce Senate Bill 456 – Firearms – Handgun Qualification License – Firearms Orientation Component. This bill allows an applicant for a Handgun Qualification License to use either live or inert ammunition to demonstrate the person's safe operation and handling of a firearm as part of the safety training course required to obtain the HQL.

The State Police has interpreted the provision of law that this bill modifies to require an applicant to fire a single live round with a handgun before the HQL can be issued. This live round requirement does not demonstrate proficiency or accuracy and requires an individual to travel to a gun range to discharge a handgun. This same demonstration can be performed with dummy ammunition, where the person would show safe carry, loading, and firing of a handgun without having to travel to a range.

The most significant barrier posed by the current requirement is the difficulty it causes prospective HQL holders living in areas that have either few or no gun ranges for the prospective holder to carry out this live fire requirement. In these jurisdictions, it is harder particularly for residents who have lower incomes and those who rely on mass transit to fulfill this requirement and obtain their HQL. By permitting the use of inert ammunition to satisfy the requirements of the HQL training, Senate Bill 456 would give these individuals and all Marylanders more options to receive this license.

I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 456. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Bailey".

Senator Jack Bailey  
District 29  
Calvert and St. Mary's Counties