

Written Testimony of Katie Novotny in support of SB456

15 February 2022

I am a member of multiple gun rights organizations. I am a certified Range Safety Officer. I compete in multiple shooting events. I am an avid firearms collector. I support SB456.

This bill makes good sense. The statute referenced does not contain the requirement that an applicant fire one round during training. In fact, this very body purposely REJECTED a requirement for live fire. This was not an oversight or accidental omission by this body. Yet the Maryland State Police chose to ignore the choices this body made and added on a live fire requirement. The Maryland State Police adding additional provisions to a bill should be alarming to this body and all citizens. What prevents them from adding additional requirements to any number of laws simply because they wish to? That is not how our government works.

Furthermore, the requirement is discriminatory. There are no ranges located within Baltimore City, and various other areas. This requirement means that a HQL class must be held at a range or other place where discharging a firearm is legal, during a time of day where it is legal. This greatly increases the price of a class, and limits where they can be held, and at what time, making them inaccessible to some people because of cost, distance, time, or any one of a number of other reasons. If the firing requirement were struck down, classes could be held nearly anywhere that was convenient for people who wish to be educated about firearms. If the purpose of FSA2013 was safety, having as many people trained in basic firearm safety should be the goal, which means classes should be accessible to as many people as is possible. This bill would allow that to happen.

Because of these reasons above, I request a favorable report.

Katherine Novotny
District 35B
443-617-7568
Katie.Novotny@hotmail.com