

DC-W_SB456_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Daniel Carlin-Weber

Position: FAV

Daniel J. Carlin-Weber
SB456 Firearms – Handgun Qualification License – Firearms Orientation Component
Favorable
2/16/2022

I am a professional firearms instructor and advocate of responsible firearms handling and ownership. I teach through my Baltimore City-based company, C-W Defense, and hold numerous credentials related to firearms instruction including being recognized as a Qualified Handgun Instructor by the Maryland State Police. I currently maintain credentials to provide firearms instruction from the National Rifle Association (NRA), United States Concealed Carry Association (USCCA), and the State of Utah's Bureau of Criminal Identification (UT BCI). Since 2016, I have taught Marylanders from all walks of life how to safely operate firearms and the responsibilities that come with them. I come before you today to urge a favorable report for Senate Bill 456.

Put simply, SB456 would allow Handgun Qualification License (HQL) applicants to complete the required firearms safety course without needing to fire a live round of ammunition. Such a requirement does not exist in State law (Md. Public Safety Article § 5-117.1) but was later introduced into COMAR in September of 2013.

The codified language in 29.03.01.29(c) states:

C. A Firearms Safety Training Course shall consist of a minimum of 4 hours of instruction by a Qualified Handgun Instructor and include the following minimum curricula.

(1) State Firearm Law. Overview of the State firearm laws, including discussion of what constitutes a regulated firearm, how to properly purchase or transfer a firearm, where allowed to carry or transport a firearm, when necessary to possess a carry permit, and who is prohibited from possessing firearms.

(2) Home Firearm Safety. Overview of handgun and firearm safety in the home, including discussion of access to minors, locking and storing of firearms, and use of safety devices, such as secure lock boxes.

(3) Handgun Mechanisms and Operation. Overview of the proper operation and safe handling of a handgun, including cleaning and maintenance, the loading and unloading of ammunition, and the differences between revolvers and semi-automatic handguns.

(4) Operation and Handling Demonstration. Orientation that demonstrates the applicant's safe operation and handling of a firearm, including a practice component in which the applicant safely fires at least one round of live ammunition.

The requirements found in (1), (2), (3), and most of (4) are easily fulfilled anywhere it is otherwise safe to provide a presentation and handle firearms without the need to use live ammunition. My students are taught basic firearms safety, proper grip, stance, how to aim, trigger and controls operation, and how to load and unload firearms all without using real ammunition. That live ammunition must be used requires that this course be completed at a shooting range unless the location is in a place where it is legal and safe to discharge live ammunition. Unless an instructor has access to such a place, the course cannot be lawfully completed no matter how immersive or what other training tools an instructor has at their disposal. All the fundamentals of safely handling a handgun can be and are taught without the need to actually fire real ammunition.

I have instructed HQL applicants who live within the Baltimore Metropolitan area for several years now and range access is the most burdensome logistical hurdle to completing the course. The closest ranges, none of which are within the City of Baltimore, are all privately operated and often have heightened requirements and extra fees for allowing outside instructors (like myself) to use their facilities. These costs are passed down to students and increases the cost of the training. High demand for these shooting ranges can also interfere with the ability to schedule courses and further delay one's access to training. To make matters worse, none of these ranges are easily accessed via public transit. If not for the current live-fire regulation under 29.03.01.29(c)(4), this course, and the firearms safety information that comes with it could be

completed virtually anywhere it is otherwise safe to offer instruction. The pessimist in me sees this requirement as not for furthering public safety, but rather to make firearms ownership more exclusive and to artificially create barriers to lawful ownership of handguns, the “quintessential self-defense weapon.” *District of Columbia v Heller*, 554 U.S., 570 (2008).

This live-fire requirement only exists in Maryland. No other state with a ‘permit-to-purchase’ requirement like the HQL requires anyone to fire live ammunition. The District of Columbia has a permit-to-purchase requirement, but applicants need only sit through a relatively brief informational presentation on firearms safety at no cost to the applicant. <https://mpdc.dc.gov/node/1284956>. A similar system existed in Maryland prior to 2013’s Firearm Safety Act. Utah requires applicants for their Concealed Firearms Permit (CFP) to take a very similar course akin to the HQL’s, except not even theirs requires ammunition to be fired for a permit that allows people to carry firearms in at least thirty-three states. <https://bit.ly/3gMti2X>. In addition to the HQL course, I regularly teach the Utah CFP course with the aid of inert training ammunition like “snap caps” and laser cartridges that project a red dot onto a target when the firearm’s trigger is pulled. D.C. residents and Utahns are not more dangerous or less worthy of gun ownership than Marylanders, yet Maryland residents are viewed and treated as such.

None of these statements are to suggest that training shouldn’t be pursued by gun owners, but rather that arbitrary requirements like this one should never stand in between one and their ability to exercise an individual right like firearms ownership is in this Country and State. Like so many other requirements surrounding guns in Maryland law, the costs and burdens are placed firmly upon those seeking to exercise that right. The State does not help applicants reach these courses, provide these courses, or help with any of the other requirements of the Handgun

Qualification License like fingerprints or the \$50 fee necessary for its purchase. Instructors are fully capable of ensuring citizens know basic gun safety and are properly oriented with the operation of handguns without the need to use real live ammunition. Maryland does not need to be in the business of penalizing its citizens who are trying to do the right thing and responsibly learn how to operate objects as common as firearms.

I strongly urge a favorable report.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'DCW', is centered on the page. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Daniel J. Carlin-Weber
225 N Calvert St., 819
Baltimore, MD 21202
dcw@cwdef.com

SenatorBailey_FAV_SB456.pdf

Uploaded by: Jack Bailey

Position: FAV

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

Judicial Proceedings Committee



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Annapolis Office
James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 402
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3673 · 301-858-3673
800-492-7122 Ext. 3673
Jack.Bailey@senate.state.md.us

District Office
Dorsey Professional Park
23680 Three Notch Road, Unit 101
Hollywood, Maryland 20636
240-309-4238

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

SB 456.pdf

Uploaded by: Karla Mooney

Position: FAV

SB 0456 Firearms- Handgun Qualification License – Firearms Orientation Component

As a QHIC in Maryland I think this component is a limitation to teach the class and to require a single live round to be fired. Therefore, I completely approve of the removal of this component of the training requirement. The safety and education of basic firearms knowledge can be taught without firing a single shot.

I recommend a favorable review of this bill.

Karla Mooney

21175 Marigold St

Leonardtown, MD 20650

Resident of District 29C

Multi-discipline Firearms Instructor Maryland QHIC

Maryland State Director for the DC Project

MSI Member

Maryland State Leader for the Armed Women of America (formerly TAWW Shooting Chapters)

Katie_Novotny_FAV_SB456.pdf

Uploaded by: Katie Novotny

Position: FAV

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

MSI Testimony on SB 456 Live Fire.pdf

Uploaded by: Mark Pennak

Position: FAV



February 16, 2022

WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF MARK W. PENNAK, PRESIDENT, MSI, IN SUPPORT OF SB 456

I am the President of Maryland Shall Issue (“MSI”). Maryland Shall Issue is Section 501(c)(4), all-volunteer, non-partisan, non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and advancement of gun owners’ rights in Maryland. It seeks to educate the community about the right of self-protection, the safe handling of firearms, and the responsibility that goes with carrying a firearm in public. I am also an attorney and an active member of the Bar of Maryland and of the Bar of the District of Columbia. I recently retired from the United States Department of Justice, where I practiced law for 33 years in the Courts of Appeals of the United States and in the Supreme Court of the United States. I am an expert in Maryland firearms law, federal firearms law and the law of self-defense. I am also a Maryland State Police certified handgun instructor for the Maryland Wear and Carry Permit and the Maryland Handgun Qualification License (“HQL”) and a certified NRA instructor in rifle, pistol, personal protection in the home, personal protection outside the home and in muzzle loader. I appear today as President of MSI in support of SB 456.

The HQL Statute and the Bill

This bill would amend MD Code, Public Safety, 5-117.1 (HQL statute). That Section prohibits law-abiding, responsible Maryland citizens from acquiring a handgun unless they have a Handgun Qualification License (“HQL”). Md. Code Ann., Pub. Safety, § 5-117.1(c). Subsection (d) imposes training requirements, including a (i) a minimum of 4 hours of instruction by a qualified handgun instructor” consisting of “(ii) classroom instruction on: 1. State firearm law; 2. home firearm safety; 3. handgun mechanisms and operation; and (iii) a firearms orientation component that demonstrates the person’s safe operation and handling of a firearm.” In regulations, the Maryland State Police have added a new and additional live-fire training requirement, mandating that the HQL applicant “safely fires at least one round of live ammunition.” COMAR 29.03.01.29(C)(4). That live round requirement is not found in the statute.

The bill would allow instructors to use live fire in teaching the HQL class, providing that the class “MAY INCLUDE THE USE OF LIVE OR INERT AMMUNITION.” Instructors do this now as HQL instruction is sometimes combined with instruction for the much longer (8 hours) NRA Basic Pistol course, in which live fire is a substantial part. The bill, however, goes on to provide that live fire is not required in order to satisfy the training requirement, stating that “A PERSON MAY NOT BE REQUIRED TO FIRE ROUNDS OF LIVE AMMUNITION AS PART OF THE FIREARMS ORIENTATION COMPONENT UNDER PARAGRAPH (1)(II)3 OF THIS SUBSECTION.” As explained below, this provision is fully consistent with the language and legislative history of the HQL legislation and will broaden the availability of basic firearms training to underserved portions of the Maryland community which have been unable to obtain training because of the live fire requirement.

The Live Fire Requirement Is Legally Doomed

In the interests of full disclosure, we note that the live-fire requirement, along with the rest of the HQL statute, is presently being challenged by MSI in federal court. See *MSI v. Hogan*, 2017 WL 3891705 (D. MD. 2017) (denying the State’s motion to dismiss). The district court, in a later decision, held that the plaintiffs lacked standing without reaching the merits of the constitutionality of the HQL statute. **That decision was very recently reversed on appeal.** See *MSI v. Hogan*, 971 F.3d 199 (4th Cir. 2020). On the merits, we believe that it is highly likely that the Supreme Court will, in an appropriate case, soon make clear that the “text, history and tradition” test is controlling in determining the constitutionality of gun control legislation – not tiers of scrutiny. The Supreme Court may well clarify the appropriate standard of review for Second Amendment cases in its upcoming decision in *NYSRPA v. Bruen*, No. 20-843, *cert. granted*, 141 S.Ct. 2566 (2021). *Bruen* was argued November 3, 2021, and a decision is expected by June of this year. See also *ANJRPC v. Bruck*, No. 20-1507 (S.Ct.) (challenging New Jersey’s ban on so-called large capacity magazines; the petition for certiorari in that case is presently being held by the Supreme Court pending a decision in *Bruen*).

Indeed, four members of the Supreme Court recently employed this very approach in *NY State Rifle & Pistol Ass’n, Inc. v. City of New York*, 140 S.Ct. 1525 (2020), where a majority of the Court held that the case was mooted by the repeal of the offending City of New York ordinance. See *Id.* at 1526 (Kavanaugh, J.) (concurring in judgment of mootness, but agreeing with Justice Alito’s discussion of *Heller* and *McDonald* on the merits; *Id.* at 1540-41 (Alito, J., dissenting from the judgment of mootness but noting further on the merits that the City’s ordinance violated the Second Amendment under *Heller* and *McDonald*). Justice Thomas made the same point recently in *Rogers, et al. v. Grewal*, 140 S.Ct. 1865, 1868 (2020) (Thomas, J., dissenting from denial of certiorari). See also *Heller v. District of Columbia* (i.e. “*Heller II*”), 670 F.3d 1244, 1269 (D.C. Cir. 2016) (Kavanaugh, J., dissenting) (“In my view, *Heller* and *McDonald* leave little doubt that courts are to assess gun bans and regulations based on text, history, and tradition, not by a balancing test such as strict or intermediate scrutiny.”). With Justice Barrett now joining the Court, we believe that a solid majority of the Court will adhere to these principles when the issue is presented. See *Kanter v. Barr*, 919 F.3d 437, 452-53 (7th Cir. 2019) (Barrett, J., dissenting).

The HQL statute will likely fail under the text, history and tradition test. Indeed, in the HQL litigation, the State’s Office of the Attorney General has not even attempt to argue that the HQL satisfies this test. Eliminating the live fire requirement will simply help the State defend this statute in this ongoing litigation. A failure to enact this bill will help MSI win the case on the merits. Should MSI prevail, in whole or in part, the State would be liable for substantial attorneys’ fees and costs under federal law, 42 U.S.C. § 1988.

The Live-Fire Requirement Is Not Authorized By the HQL Statute

It is well-established in Maryland law that “[a]n agency’s authority extends only as far as the General Assembly prescribes.” *Thanner Enters., LLC v. Balt. Cty.*, 995 A.2d 257, 263 (Md. 2010). Thus, an agency’s rule or regulations cannot “contradict the language or purpose of the statute.” *Medstar Health v. Md. Health Care Comm’n*, 827 A.2d 83, 96 (Md. 2003). Here, the Maryland State Police has grafted onto Section 5-117.1(d)(3)(iii)’s requirement of a “firearms orientation component” an entirely new “practice component” under which the

applicant must safely fire “at least one round of live ammunition.” COMAR 29.03.01.29C(4). Although Section 5-117.1(n) provides that “[t]he Secretary may adopt regulations to carry out the provisions of this section,” it does not allow the Maryland State Police to add new “provisions,” such as adding “a practice component” so as to mandate live-fire.

The State Police rule is directly contrary to legislative intent. As originally proposed, the HQL bill required a safety course that included “a firearms qualification component that demonstrates the person’s **proficiency** and use of the firearm.” 2013 Leg. Sess. SB 281 (First Reader) at 17.9. By common usage of these terms, a “qualification component” that demonstrates “proficiency” calls for live-fire. This “qualification component” was deleted by the General Assembly, however, and Section 5-117.1(d)(3)(iii) was changed to its current language by amendment in the House of Delegates proffered by then-Delegate McDermott. Chapter 427 of the 2013 Laws of Maryland. See http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2013rs/amds/bil_0001/SB0281_48392701.pdf. The debate on the floor of the House of Delegates confirms that the amendment was intended to eliminate a live-fire requirement that would have been associated with the “proficiency and use” language of the original bill. See General Assembly of Maryland, 2013 Regular Session Proceedings – House Audio, April 2, 2013, Session 2, at 19:05 (April 2, 2013). The General Assembly’s rejection of this language in the law that passed means that live-fire training exceeds the scope of the statutory grant. This body should insist that the State Police follow the law that the General Assembly actually passed, not the law that the State Police wish passed.

The Live-Fire Requirement Is Discriminatory

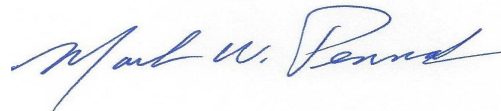
The live-fire requirement is not only unauthorized, it effectively discriminates against residents of the City of Baltimore and the poor populations in Maryland in the urban areas of Maryland. Training without a live-fire requirement can take place anywhere, while training that must include live-fire can only take place at a firing range, the availability of which is highly limited (there are **none** in Baltimore City). The need for a range, in turn, acts as a complete barrier to the acquisition of a HQL License by persons, especially the poor, minorities and the disadvantaged, who live in areas, such as Baltimore and most of urban Maryland, where access to a shooting range is highly limited or non-existent. Nearly all the established ranges in Maryland are privately owned and those ranges typically restrict access to members and their guests. Range access is also expensive and requiring it means that the cost of the training is likewise more expensive as the instructor must accord for the cost of obtaining range access.

Indeed, the discharge of such live ammunition, required by the State Police regulation, is flatly banned by local law in the urban portions of Maryland, including all of the City of Baltimore, Section 59-2 of Article 19, Baltimore Ordinances, all of Prince Georges County, County Code Section 14-142(a), most of Montgomery County, County Ordinances Ch.57, § 57-4, the entire “metropolitan district” of Howard County (which consists of about half of Howard Co), County Ordinances, § 8.401(a), and the entire “metropolitan district” of Baltimore County which is a very large part of the County, County Ordinances, § 17-2-101(a). In all these areas, the sole exception is for discharges taking place at “established ranges” which are protected from local regulation by State law, MD Code, Criminal Law, § 4-209(d)(2). This ban on live fire outside an “established range” in these urban areas means that the residents of these areas simply cannot obtain the HQL training unless their

instructor has access to a range, typically located outside of these urban areas. These ranges are also typically privately owned and operated and thus often unavailable to the public. That effectively means that these students must travel in order to obtain HQL instruction from an instructor with access to a range.

There is no justification for a live-fire requirement that imposes these sorts of burdens. Whatever the merits of the State Police requirement, the residents of Baltimore and the urban areas of Maryland should not be placed at such a profound disadvantage. Persons with means will be able to pay a private instructor who will have access to a range. These persons will have access to transportation, while the disadvantaged community may find travel much more difficult. Cost will not be a barrier for individuals with means, but costs of live fire impose a barrier for those who cannot afford the prices instructors have to charge more in order to offer live fire at a range. Persons with means will be able to obtain an HQL. Poorer Marylanders are out of luck. That is intolerable. Like it or not, under the Supreme Court's decision in *District of Columbia v. Heller*, 554 U.S. 570 (2008), all law-abiding, responsible adult citizens, including residents of the urban areas of Maryland, have a right to buy a handgun for self-defense. Period. Full stop. Not even the State Attorney General has disputed that basic premise in the *MSI* litigation. That right should be available to every law-abiding responsible citizen, regardless of whether they live in Baltimore, other parts of urban Maryland or somewhere else in Maryland. By reversing the discriminatory requirement of live-fire, this bill will help ensure that right is available to all law-abiding citizens, just like other constitutional rights. The HQL statute will eventually fail to survive constitutional challenge. In the meantime, the law-abiding citizens of Baltimore and of the other urban portions of Maryland should enjoy the same rights as enjoyed by persons with means. We urge a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark W. Pennak". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Mark W. Pennak
President, Maryland Shall Issue, Inc.
mpennak@marylandshallissue.org

MFB Testimony supporting SB 456.pdf

Uploaded by: Michael Burke

Position: FAV



February 15, 2022

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF Michael Burke, MSI member,
IN SUPPORT OF SB 456**

I am a Member of Maryland Shall Issue (“MSI”). Maryland Shall Issue is a Section 501(c)(4), all-volunteer, non-partisan organization dedicated to the preservation and advancement of gun owners’ rights in Maryland. My associates and I seek to educate the community, including the Maryland General Assembly, about the right of self-protection, the safe handling of firearms, and the responsibility that goes with possessing and/or carrying a firearm in public.

My background includes over 30 years of military service with the US Army and Maryland National Guard as a Military Police officer, Drill Instructor, and Counterintelligence Agent; over 20 years as a Criminal Investigator/Special Agent with numerous Federal law enforcement agencies. I am an expert in Maryland firearms law, federal firearms law and the law of self-defense. I am also a Maryland State Police certified handgun instructor for the Maryland Wear and Carry Permit and the Maryland Handgun Qualification License (“HQL”) and a certified NRA pistol instructor. I appear today as a voter and member of numerous other 2nd Amendment advocacy organizations in SUPPORT of **SB 533**.

As a Maryland Certified Handgun Instructor, I can unequivocally state that the current requirement to “fire one round” is both meaningless and ineffectual in training a citizen for the mere purchase of a regulated firearm (handgun).

It is blatantly discriminatory, in that it is IMPOSSIBLE for a resident of Baltimore City (**Black or African American: 62.35% White: 30.46% Asian: 2.58% Two or more races: 2.49%**) to obtain training for the Handgun Qualification License anywhere inside the Baltimore Beltway. There is absolutely NO firearms range available – not even Baltimore City law enforcement officers, deputy Sheriffs, or Corrections Officers- can conduct live fire training without leaving the jurisdiction.

The “single shot” requirement, arbitrarily picked and implemented by the State Police is unlawful and in direct contradiction of the language of the Firearms Safety Act of 2013 that instituted the HQL requirement.

End this racist and absurd obstacle to the freedom of Maryland (especially men and women of Color) to keep and bear arms in their own homes and places of business.

SB456_Nicholas_DeTello.pdf

Uploaded by: Nicholas DeTello

Position: FAV

Nicholas DeTello

SB456 Criminal Law - Theft of a Handgun

Favorable

2/16/2022

I am a student, Eagle Scout, family man, as well as a Civil Rights Enthusiast. I have voted independently, I am currently registered as a Libertarian, and I have a diverse set of views (some left, some right). These include but are not limited to: equality, limiting abuse of police power, protection of minority groups (such as my direct LGBT family) and decriminalization of victimless crimes (drug possession, gun possession, exercising civil rights, etc.). As a Maryland gunowner I have had to go through the rigorous requirements behind the Handgun Qualification License, and I am familiar with the arbitrary requirements historically required by it. For this reason, I urge a favorable report of Senate Bill 456.

Too often I find myself testifying *against* bills in Annapolis; this is usually due to proposed bills being used as tools to enhance the overreach of already far too-powerful Law Enforcement Agencies. I would testify the same way even if it was overreach in Austin, Texas or Phoenix, Arizona. Many of the answers to the problems in this country are not solved by giving police **more** ways to arrest and jail citizens. Often the opposite is true; officer badge cams, repealing qualified immunity, decriminalization of victimless crimes, and favoring rehabilitation over incarceration are all positives in my book. That's exactly why this bill is so important; I strongly support empowering citizens and taking harsh/unnecessary laws off the books.

I believe the live-fire requirement is a barrier to entry purposely left in place to prevent citizens in Baltimore City from exercising their rights. Since live-fire requires a firing range, this prohibits those in the city from getting their HQL without transporting themselves to a far away range capable of providing this.

For the purposes of providing fair access to the HQL, and removing this discriminatory live-fire requirement, I urge you to vote favorably on Senate Bill 456.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicholas DeTello". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Nicholas DeTello

2422 Clydesdale Rd, Finksburg, MD 21048

ndetello@hotmail.com

Support SB0456.pdf

Uploaded by: William Adams

Position: FAV

William Adams
8708 N Pacific Ct
Middletown, MD 21769
240-446-4981

Support for SB0456

I support this bill.

Thank you,
William Adams

SB 456_MNADV_UNF.pdf

Uploaded by: Melanie Shapiro

Position: UNF



BILL NO: Senate Bill 456
TITLE: Firearms - Handgun Qualification License - Firearms Orientation Component
COMMITTEE: Judicial Proceedings
HEARING DATE: February 16, 2022
POSITION: **OPPOSE**

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 an unfavorable report on SB 456.**

Senate Bill 456 seeks to remove the imperative training requirement that a firearm owner demonstrate the ability to safely operate and handle a firearm. COMAR explains that the ability to safely operate and handle a firearm requirement includes “a practice component in which the applicant safely fires *at least* one round of live ammunition.”¹ The practice component is a critical training requirement that should not be removed or made optional in statute. If this training requirement is not required, the sole training requirement for a handgun qualification license would be a minimum of 4 hours of classroom instruction. There would be no requirement in the State of Maryland that an individual with a handgun qualification license actually demonstrate the ability to safely operate and handle a firearm. Removing the demonstrative component for the handgun qualification license would be akin to removing the road test for a Maryland driver’s license.

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-whip a victim.² 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.³ Women who are threatened or assaulted with a gun are 20 times more likely than other women to be murdered.⁴

For the above stated reasons, the **Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence urges an unfavorable report on SB 456.**

¹ COMAR 29.03.01.29(C)(4) (emphasis added).

² 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>

³ Sorenson, S. B., & Schut, R. A. (2016). Nonfatal gun use in intimate partner violence: A systematic review of the literature. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*

⁴ 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>