

SB 667 Testimony .pdf

Uploaded by: Cory McCray

Position: FAV

CORY V. McCRAY
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Baltimore City

DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Budget and Taxation Committee

Subcommittees

Vice Chair, Capital Budget

Pensions

Chair, Public Safety, Transportation,
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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 667

Baltimore Police Department - Firearm Destruction, Seizure, and Recovery - Reporting Requirement

Dear Chairman Smith and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

I write to urge you to **support** Senate Bill 667. Requiring the Baltimore Police Department to report information on firearms and their correlated status with the Department is a crucial step in establishing transparency and notice amongst related agencies and legislative bodies.

Under Senate Bill 667, beginning March 1, 2023—on or before March 1 of each year—the Baltimore Police Department shall report information regarding firearms destroyed, seized, or recovered by the Department to the Baltimore City Delegation within Maryland’s General Assembly. This mandate is in accordance with § 2–1257 OF19 (The State Government Article). This requirement imposes a duty which impacts grant fund allocation—in that, should the Baltimore Police Department fail to submit the requisite report as proscribed, the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services may not make any grant funds available to the Baltimore Police Department.

If enacted, Senate Bill 667 shall take effect October 1, 2022. It shall remain effective for a period of 5 years. At the end of September 30, 2027, it shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect, with no further action required by the General Assembly.

I respectfully request a favorable report of Senate Bill 667.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Cory V. McCray".

Cory V. McCray
State Senator, 45th District

SB 667 BPD Support with Amendment.pdf

Uploaded by: Michelle Wirzberger

Position: FWA



Brandon M. Scott
Mayor

BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT



Michael S. Harrison
Police Commissioner

TO: The Honorable Members of the House Judiciary Committee

FROM: Michelle Wirzberger, Esq., Director of Government Affairs, Baltimore Police Dept.

RE: Senate Bill 667 Baltimore Police Department – Firearm Destruction, Seizure, and Recovery – Reporting Requirement

DATE: February 23, 2022

POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT

Chair Smith, Vice-Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore Police Department **supports with amendment** Senate Bill 667.

Senate Bill 667 requires that on or before March 1st of each year and for each year through 2027, the Baltimore Police Department must report the following items to the Baltimore City Delegation to the General Assembly:

- The number of firearms destroyed, seized, or recovered during the reporting period;
- The manufacturer and type of each firearm to the extent known, including whether it is a handgun, rifle, machine gun, or shotgun:
 - Whether each firearm had a serial number;
 - The reason for the destruction of each firearm;
 - The source of each firearm, including seizure from a criminal defendant, crime evidence, agency purchase, turned in to the agency by a citizen, etc.

In addition, the report submitted on March 1, 2023 must include information regarding firearms destroyed, seized, or recovered by the Baltimore Police Department during the years 2012-2021. If the Baltimore Police Department fails to submit a required report, the Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention, Youth and Victim Services is prohibited from providing any grant funds to the Department.

Overall, the Baltimore Police Department supports the reporting requirements and believes that the annual report mandated by this bill is another mechanism for transparency that informs the public and elected officials about the important work that the Department does in order to keep residents and visitors safe.

However, the Department does have concerns about the significant penalty for non-compliance that could negatively impact public safety and victim services in Baltimore City. We believe that this provision is unnecessarily punitive, and we suggest that lines 17 – 20 of page 2 of the bill be amended.

Currently, grant funding is used to develop and maintain key law enforcement programs, such as:

- sexual assault kit testing;
- sex offender registry enforcement and compliance efforts;
- home visits of registered gun offenders;
- collaboration with HIDTA and other federal agencies to target the most wanted and the most violent offenders within Baltimore City;
- officer recruitment;
- crime analytics;
- strategic coordination with the Office of the States Attorney to secure convictions of violent offenders and to address human trafficking, etc.

Additionally, it is important to note that the annual grants that BPD receives from GOCPYVS also fund a wide variety of programs and external organizations dedicated to assisting victims of crime, such as the Baltimore Child Abuse Center and Mercy Medical Center. A complete list of the grants can be found in the attached report that we submit to the General Assembly annually. We are concerned that, in the event of an unforeseen administrative or operational delay in submitting this report, it would jeopardize the funding of these critical programs and negatively impact public safety in Baltimore.

Therefore, the Baltimore Police Department respectfully requests a **favorable with amendment** report on Senate Bill 667.