

Daniel J. Carlin-Weber
HB1288 - Public Safety - Handgun Permit Application Fee - Waiver for Disabled Residents
Favorable
3/2/2022

I am a firearms instructor and advocate of responsible firearms handling and ownership. Currently, I am a Maryland State Police Qualified Handgun Instructor, a Utah Concealed Firearm Permit Instructor, USCCA Concealed Carry and Home Defense Instructor, NRA Range Safety Officer, and Basic Pistol Instructor. Since 2016, I have instructed Marylanders from all walks of life on how to safely operate firearms and the responsibilities that come with them. I come before you today to urge a favorable report of House Bill 1288.

House Bill 1288 would simply waive the required fee of \$75 for Wear and Carry permit applicants for Maryland residents with disabilities, as well as subsequent fees related to renewals, modifications, and duplicates. Applying for a permit is a costly affair, as training must be completed before the submission of an application. That training consists of 16 hours, includes a firearms proficiency requirement, and usually requires that students bring their own ammunition and equipment. These courses typically cost upwards of \$300 and must be completed BEFORE submission of the application. Digital Livescan Fingerprints are also required as part of an application and cost on average \$55 or more. *None of these costs* include any other accommodations necessary for any of the applicant's needs in order to complete their training or other portions of the application process.

The Fiscal and Policy Note for HB1288 indicates there is not any anticipated meaningful impact from losses of revenue to the State's General Fund in waiving the fees from these residents.

Anything to lessen the burdens put upon citizens seeking the means to protect themselves in public like around the vast majority of the country should be welcomed, especially for those less physically able than others.

I urge a favorable report.

Daniel J. Carlin-Weber
225 N Calvert St
Baltimore, MD 21202
410-929-1749
dcw@cwdef.com