

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

**INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION**

11250 WAPLES MILL ROAD

FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22030



**NRA**

March 9, 2022

Chairman Luke Clippinger  
90 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland, 21401

Dear Chairman Clippinger:

On behalf of our members in Maryland, I would like to communicate our strong support for House Bill 871.

At present, Maryland Handgun Wear and Carry Permit applicants are required to complete 16-hour certified firearms training course. HB 871 would alter existing law to provide an avenue for law-abiding Marylanders to obtain preliminary approval of a Handgun Wear and Carry Permit contingent upon their subsequent completion of the requisite certified firearms training course within 120 days of receiving the permit.

Under HB 871, those seeking preliminary approval of a Handgun Wear and Carry Permit would still be required to undergo a Maryland State Police investigation to determine that they do not pose a danger to themselves or others and that they have a good and substantial reason to carry a handgun. Should an individual who is granted preliminary approval of a Handgun Wear and Carry Permit fail to obtain the requisite firearms training within 120 of receiving their approval, the permit would be revoked.

This legislation would help to ensure that law-abiding Marylanders have timely access to the means of self-defense. As was seen this summer, the threat of violence can arise with little warning or opportunity for preparation. On a more personal scale, an unanticipated need to provide for one's self-defense can occur can come about at any time. For instance, a woman fleeing domestic violence could have an immediate need to carry a firearm, but may be unable to secure the requisite training for Handgun Wear and Carry Permit in a prompt manner.

Moreover, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has made it more difficult to obtain certified firearms training. As Marylanders work together to combat the virus through social distancing, opportunities to congregate have been reduced. Many Marylanders, due to personal health concerns may be reluctant to pursue firearms training in a traditional setting. HB 871 would allow prospective Handgun Wear and Carry Permit holders greater leeway to choose a safe time and setting to complete the required certified firearms training course.

For the foregoing reasons NRA supports HB871.

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Sincerely,

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

D.J. Spiker  
Maryland State Director  
NRA-ILA

CC: Delegate David Moon  
Delegate Curt Anderson  
Delegate Lauren Arikan  
Delegate J. Sandy Bartlett  
Delegate Jon S. Cardin  
Delegate Frank M. Conaway Jr.  
Delegate Daniel L. Cox  
Delegate Charlotte Crutchfield  
Delegate Debra Davis  
Delegate Wanika Fisher  
Delegate Faye Martin Howell  
Delegate Rachel Jones  
Delegate Lesley J. Lopez  
Delegate Susan K. McComas  
Delegate Rachel Munoz  
Delegate Emily Shetty  
Delegate Haven Shoemaker  
Delegate Brenda J. Thiam  
Delegate Karen Toles  
Delegate Nicole A. Williams