



State of Maryland  
Office of the Attorney General

Monday, February 21, 2022

TO: The Honorable Luke Clippinger, Chair, Judiciary Committee  
FROM: Carrie J. Williams, Assistant Attorney General  
RE: Attorney General's Opposition to HB 590

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The Attorney General urges the Judiciary Committee to report unfavorably on House Bill 590. House Bill 590 would allow persons with handgun permits to wear, carry, or transport a handgun in a State park or forest.

Maryland's State Parks offer millions of visitors an opportunity to hike, camp, mountain bike, fish, and otherwise enjoy nature. Particularly during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, many Maryland families relied on the State Parks for socially-distant and family-friendly recreation.<sup>1</sup>

State Parks should remain places where Marylanders can enjoy nature without worrying about fellow park visitors carrying handguns. There is no legitimate reason to allow handguns in our State Parks. The Attorney General urges an unfavorable report on House Bill 590.

cc: Members of the Committee

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<sup>1</sup> See Maryland Dep't of Resources, February 4, 2021 Press Release (Maryland State Parks welcomed 21.5 million visitors in 2020, up 45% from 2019).