

Testimony of Art Novotny in OPPOSITION to HB1021

These proposed building alterations are too vague and large scale to be implemented by October 2022. One of my favorite FFL's works out of the finished attic of his house. He does have a security door and camera system (which is prudent), but there is no way he could put barricades around his entire house, nor bars on every single window.

These requirements go beyond prudence and would be prohibitive for all but the largest established dealers to comply with, especially given the timeframe. Perhaps if there was more time allowed and some sort of financial assistance or tax breaks offered on the installation and maintenance of such security measures made available, it would be feasible.

Most importantly, this bill makes no distinction between types of FFL. I have a Collector of Curios and Relics License. It is for personal use and only applies to old firearms. It specifically states that it cannot be used for business purposes, however it is indeed a Federal Firearms License (FFL03). I can barely afford the mortgage on the first house that we bought a few months ago. There is no way I can fortify my house to meet these requirements for my personal use collection. I'm struggling to afford to keep the windows airtight and painted, let alone install bars on them. The whole point of buying a house in the country is that it wouldn't have to be a bunker capable of withstanding a siege attack.

Again, the timeframe is a major problem. It took years to find this house that we could afford. In today's market, we will never be able to find one in PA before October 2022.

Perhaps if the penalties for theft of firearms were increased and enforced, it would be a helpful deterrent in this case...but that is another bill.

Please allow my favorite local businesses to stay in business, and me to stay in my new home in Maryland, by opposing this bill.

Thank you,
Art Novotny
Aberdeen, MD

Also, the 8:00am-3:00pm window on one day to submit testimony really feels discriminatory and disenfranchising to working folks like me. If you are reading this, I guess I found a way... but it meant I had to sneak around work to do it. I'm sure a lot of hard working voices have been silenced.