

HB0030: Election Law – Polling Sites – Firearms Prohibitions

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Position: OPPOSE

Passage of HB0030 could affect me personally. The provision that bans gun possession within 100 feet of a polling site creates dozens of gun-free zones in privately owned buildings. This will affect those with privately owned buildings as well as homeowners and renters with homes within 100 feet of a polling site. Violation of the bill would be punished as a civil infraction with a \$5,000 fine under MD Code, Election Law, § 13-604.

Importantly, HB0030 is overbroad in that it would ban mere possession by persons who are simply on the way to legally permitted gun-related activities and who just happen to drive within 100 feet of a polling place. I respectfully suggest that the bill be amended to exempt these types of non-threatening and innocent possessions.

While I understand the desire to regulate the open display of firearms at a polling place, the HB0030 actually invites attacks by politically-motivated, deranged mass shooters by banning virtually all otherwise lawful possession of firearms. It is well established that concealed-carry permit holders are a very law-abiding group.