



State of Maryland
Department of State Police
Government Affairs Section
Annapolis Office (410) 260-6100

POSITION ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION

DATE: March 23, 2023

BILL NUMBER: Senate Bill 185 **Position: Support**

BILL TITLE: Maryland State Police Gun Center – Firearms Surrendered Under Final Protective Orders

REVIEW AND ANALYSIS:

This legislation seeks to alter the purpose of the Maryland State Police Gun Center to include the tracking, screening and vetting of all firearms surrendered under final protective orders in the state.

Under current law, respondents of a final protective order are required to surrender all firearms in their possession to a law enforcement agency or transfer them to a lawful recipient of their choice. All law enforcement agencies are required to report to the Maryland State Police Gun Center all firearms that are recovered in a crime.

This legislation will expand the Maryland State Police Gun Center's responsibilities to include receiving information from all law enforcement agencies regarding the surrendering of firearms by respondents of final protective orders. While respondents are currently required to surrender their firearms or transfer them to another person who is lawfully able to possess them, there is no central repository to track and ensure the transaction takes place. This legislation will create a repository and help ensure firearms are surrendered in accordance with the issuance of final protective orders.

For these reasons, the Department of State Police urges the Committee to give Senate Bill 185 a favorable report.