



## Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

### Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions

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**TO:** The Honorable Kumar P. Barve, Chair and  
Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee

**FROM:** Albert L. Liebno, Jr. *Albert L. Liebno, Jr.*  
Executive Director  
Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions

**DATE:** March 6, 2023

**RE:** HB 1028 – Department of State Police – Training Facilities with  
Firearm Range-Location

#### **POSITION: LETTER OF INFORMATION**

The Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions (MPCTC) is a unit within the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS). The MPCTC provides support staff for two different commissions and manages the Public Safety Education and Training Center (PSETC) in Sykesville, Maryland. The Correctional Training Commission functions as a unit of the DPSCS and the Police Training and Standards Commission is an independent commission, but still within the organizational structure of the DPSCS. Both commissions are responsible for establishing training standards, officer certifications, and compliance.

The MPCTC understands the impact that gun violence in communities can have on the health and well-being of people who reside in those impacted neighborhoods. The MPCTC is equally concerned with the impact this bill will have on the required training of police and correctional officers across the State. There are 16,000 police officers and more than 6,000 correctional officers in Maryland that are required to receive firearms training and qualification each year. A significant portion of their training is related to firearms safety and proficiency, use of force and other specialized weapon training.

Although HB 1028 addresses the Department of State Police training facilities with firearms ranges, the stated intent concerns the location of a training facility with a firearm range near a hospital or correctional facility. The MPCTC operates five ranges in different geographic locations throughout Maryland. These ranges operate almost daily serving state, federal and local law enforcement and correctional agencies. The firearm range of the PSETC in Sykesville, which is our primary range center and provides these services to nearly 7,000 police and correctional officers annually, is located approximately a quarter of a mile from the Springfield Hospital Center and approximately the same distance from the

Central Maryland Correctional Facility. Range services include entry-level firearms annual training/qualifications, remedial training, and various specialized firearms schools. It is unclear whether this proximity constitutes “near” these facilities, as contemplated by the bill.

In addition to the PSETC location, the MPCTC operates four additional DPSCS firearm ranges at or near correctional facilities throughout the State. These ranges serve another 2,500 officers annually from State correctional institutions, local correctional institutions, the Maryland State Police, local and county law enforcement agencies, and many federal agencies. In addition to State operated ranges, there are other public safety ranges located throughout Maryland that are operated at the local or county level. Even though there appear to be many ranges throughout Maryland, there is a great demand for services that require these ranges to be operational on a daily basis.

All of the DPSCS facilities mentioned above are located at or potentially “near” an educational facility, hospital, or correctional facility. To the extent any of these facilities would fall within the parameters of the bill, their relocation would create significant operational issues and would have a notable fiscal impact tied to relocation and construction expenses. House Bill 1028 identifies a temporary relocation of firearm services to Greenbury Point in Annapolis, a property managed by Naval Support Activity, an installation of the federal government. Without an agreement from the federal government, this location is not a viable option. Even if it were, relocation to Greenbury Point would be logistically problematic and most likely would result in the closure of the 240 acre conservation area to the public since firearm operations would be conducted daily. Greenbury Point prohibits access to the public whenever firearms training is being utilized. Additionally, this location is used as a training hub for the U.S. Naval Academy to accommodate future leaders’ mission requirements, as well as recreational use for service members and families, installation personnel, alumni, and retirees.

The MPCTC appreciates the concern that this training may have an impact on trauma and related outcomes of those in the enumerated facilities. However, the MPCTC is not aware of any credentialed study that evidences such impact.

In summary, despite these ranges being in close proximity to hospitals, educational or correctional facilities, the MPCTC has not received any reported concerns from medical or mental health professionals that nearby firearms training is having a negative impact on their therapeutic efforts. In addition, we are not familiar with any study that associates firearm ranges with trauma. Many of the existing ranges have sound absorbing panels to reduce noise levels in order to maintain quality of life with adjoining residential, commercial or governmental institutions. The MPCTC offers this information for consideration of the operational and fiscal impact it would have on public safety professionals.