



Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

Office of Government & Legislative Affairs

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BILL: HOUSE BILL 1028

POSITION: LETTER OF INFORMATION

EXPLANATION: This bill states the intent of the General Assembly to prohibit the Department of State Police to locate a training facility with a firearm range near specified areas; requires the Governor to include in the annual budget funding for the planning and construction of a training facility that satisfies the intent of the General Assembly; and further requires the Department of State Police shall submit an annual report in fiscal years 2025 - 2029 regarding the use of firearms ranges near the specified areas.

COMMENTS:

- The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (Department) operates the Division of Correction (DOC), the Division of Pretrial Detention and Services (DPDS), and the Division of Parole and Probation (DPP).
 - DOC operates 13 State correctional facilities housing offenders sentenced to periods of incarceration for 18 months and longer.
 - DPDS operates the Baltimore City Pretrial Complex which houses pretrial detainees and incarcerated individuals sentenced to incarceration for periods of 18 months and less.
 - DPP supervises parolees, probationers and those on mandatory release from correctional facilities.
- The intent of the bill is unclear as it relates to the utilization of existing firearms ranges by the Maryland Department of State Police (MSP).
- DPSCS operates five firearm ranges in proximity of a hospital and State correctional facilities, two of the prohibited areas identified in HB 1028, and is very concerned these ranges may be included in this bill.
- These firearms ranges are used by MSP, as well as other state, county, local and federal law enforcement agencies, as well as correctional officers on a regular basis.
- As indicated, the intent of the bill is unclear but implies that if a new training facility to include firearms ranges is to be built for MSP, there

would be an expectation that the existing MSP ranges would be closed. If this extends to the DPSCS ranges that are in proximity to State correctional facilities and hospitals, this would have a detrimental impact on training for other law enforcement and correctional officers.

CONCLUSION: For these reasons, the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services respectfully requests the Committee consider this information as it deliberates House Bill 1028.