

Please **OPPOSE** SB1

Criminal Law – Wearing, Carrying, or Transporting Firearms – Restrictions (Gun Safety Act of 2023)

This bill announces open season on the small business owner who transports cash. In previous years, Maryland acknowledged the need for the small business owner to protect themselves. But now, even that glimmer of the real world is no more. What about abused women? Are they relegated back to using the imaginary force field otherwise known as a restraining order? This bill WILL place many good people in sever jeopardy for no reason what-so-ever.

If this bill is about "feeling safe", where do you feel safer? Baltimore or West Virginia? Baltimore or Pennsylvania? Baltimore or Virginia? These are serious questions and the answer is what your gut, visceral reaction is. Be honest with yourself. 10.67% of the West Virginia adult population has a conceal carry license and, given West Virginia is a "Constitutional carry" state, there is no permit required to carry so ANY adult could be legally carrying a firearm yet no one is going to avoid a West Virginian vacation due to fear of legally armed locals. It just doesn't enter into one's mind as something to rationally fear. Pennsylvania has 14.89% of its adult population in possession of a conceal carry license; in Virginia the percentage is 10.67%; even D.C. stands at 1.81%. In 2022, not even 1% of Maryland adults had a carry license. [1] Some of our surrounding states have over 14 TIMES more firearm carrying adults and there is are no problems nor the unrealistic feelings of lack of safety. This bill is completely unwarranted based upon our observations of our nearest neighbors.

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[1] https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=4279137 (downloadable statistics)