

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION

11250 WAPLES MILL ROAD

FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22030



NRA

February 20, 2023

House of Delegates
Judiciary Committee
Chairman Luke Clippinger
6 Bladen St
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman Clippinger:

On behalf of our tens of thousands of members in Maryland, we ask you today to give an unfavorable report to House Bill 824 for the following reasons:

Doubling application and renewal fees

HB824 would double the initial cost of application fees, as well as doubling the costs for renewals, subsequent applications, and even required a duplicate or modified permit. These fees for some will be cost-prohibitive, and seem designed to target lower socio-economic classes to discourage appropriate wear and carry permitting.

Increasing burden of training

HB824 would dramatically increase the training course required for applicants, adding additional curriculum items, some of which do not exist as of February 2023. Requiring teaching of state self-defense law, including justifiable force or deadly force and proportional use of force in self-defense are laws that as of present, do not exist in the Maryland code. Requiring these items to be taught in courses would be impossible prior to their passage. Additionally, directions for requiring live-fire are unclear on what threshold may qualify as 'shooting proficiency', leaving discretion to the Secretary for determination.

Remnants of 'good and substantial' remain in the existing code section

The Supreme Court decision in *New York Rifle and Pistol Association v Breun* effectively ended the 'may issue', changing all states, including Maryland, to 'shall issue' states for wear and carry permitting. However, on page 10 of HB824, line 24 continues to describe 'may issue', giving unconstitutional discretion to the Secretary. This is magnified in contrast on page 11, line 17, which expressly changes 'may' to 'shall' when it comes to permit revocation.

Reducing period of time for renewal permits to be valid

HB824 would reduce the amount of time a renewed permit shall be valid from three years to two. This reduction increases the burden on law-abiding gun owners who wish to protect themselves and their family by exercising their constitutional rights.

The National Rifle Association respectfully requests that you *give an unfavorable report to House Bill 824*.

Sincerely,

D.J. Spiker
State Director
NRA-ILA

CC:

Del. David Moon
Del. Lauren Arian
Del. Sandy J. Bartlett
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Del. Jon S. Cardin
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