

HB 284: Public Safety - Regulated Firearms - Possession and Permits to Carry, Wear, and Transport a Handgun

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Position: OPPOSE

HB 284 affects me personally, as well as all MD citizens with (or planning to obtain) MSP-issued Wear & Carry Permits - arguably the most law-abiding group of citizens in MD - by doubling current fees for permits to \$150 for the initial permit, \$100 for renewals and \$20 for duplicates.

HB 824 also aims to add to the list of individuals prohibited from getting a Wear & Carry Permit and expand the processes taken by the MSP in the process of investigating applicants. The process is already burdensome and expensive.

It is already expensive to obtain a Wear & Carry Permit, with the average first-time applicant spending anywhere between \$500 to \$750 between the training, fingerprints, and fees for the permit itself. The fees are intended to cover actual costs of MSP for processing applications and renewals, not to make a profit or as a means to punish citizens for obtaining and retaining a Wear & Carry Permit. **Lower income MD citizens will be hurt the most by HB 824.**

HB 284 also proposes to increase expense for Wear & Carry Permit holders by making renewal permits only valid for 2-years instead of the current 3-year period.

Well, if that is not enough, **HB 824 is in conflict with licensing provisions contained in the revised version of SB 1.**