

SB1 remains unacceptable and unconstitutional after modification from its original form. It cannot stand, nor will it stand up to judicial scrutiny. The Supreme Court, the final arbiter, has already ruled on this issue, and has clarified the time, place, and manner restrictions that can reasonably be applied to firearms carry. SB1 imposes far broader restrictions on these restrictions than are permissible. Worse, SB1 is clearly a retaliatory action in response to that Bruenn Supreme Court case, making it clear that its purpose is not public safety, but instead, to maintain Maryland's historical prohibitions on the right of peaceable citizens to lawfully protect themselves outside the home. This bill pledges to blatantly deny my right to protection outside my home. To add insult to injury, it will further harm me and all other MD taxpayers when the State is obligated to pay legal fees to plaintiffs who rightfully win the court challenge to should this bill become law.

SB1's modifications continue to render it practically impossible to leave one's home armed. That is its clear purpose and for that reason should be abandoned. That it is the #1 bill makes clear that opponents to the right to carry had this bill teed up and ready for introduction in the General Assembly in time for it as soon as the session opened.

SB1 still prohibits one from carrying on a private property without permission of the owner, purposely, knowing full well that this is a burden so difficult as to be impossible to attain.

SB1's restriction on carry in health care facilities is again outside the scope of the Supreme Court's defined sensitive areas and thereby unconstitutional. Stadiums, museums, anyplace sports occur, public gatherings, etcetera, remain among the places where lawful carry is prohibited, creating the dense matrix of prohibited places that its authors knew would effectively prohibit public carry of. This bill offends me, as does the deceitful tactic it employs to attain its goal of denying our rights. Its authors know that an overt and clear ban on the right to carry is now impossible, so they cleverly worded the bill to avoid such language, by crafting it to have the same effect as an outright ban. The courts will see right through this scheme, as do those of us opposed to the bill. Again, this de-facto ban on public carry has already been declared by the Supreme Court to be beyond the scope of how, where, and when firearms carry can be limited.

The tone of this bill is offensive. It is a horrible landmark by which Maryland will be remembered. Years from now such bills will serve as historical reminders of an era when purportedly progressive States did their utmost to deny their citizens their rights in the face of established law and Supreme Court precedent. As the era of Jim Crow laws and forced racial segregation was a stain on our history, with government crafting language to suppress individual freedom in clear opposition to the rights guaranteed under the Constitution - so is this bill.