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**TO:** The Honorable Luke Clippinger  
Chair, Judiciary Committee

**FROM:** Hannibal G. Williams II Kemerer  
Chief Counsel, Legislative Affairs, Office of the Attorney General

**RE:** HB 364 – Public Safety – Handgun Permit Requirement – Repeal  
(Maryland's Constitutional Carry Act of 2023) (**Oppose**)

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The Office of Attorney General urges an unfavorable report on House Bill 364, Del. Grammer's bill to repeal (1) the requirement for a person to have a permit to wear, carry, or transport a handgun in order for the person to wear, carry, or transport a handgun; (2) corresponding requirements and procedures related to the issuance of a handgun permit; and (3) criminal penalties for violations relating to the failure to follow requirements and procedures relating to a handgun permit. The bill also repeals the application of specified handgun-related criminal prohibitions and establishes additional prohibitions.

This bill is inconsistent with the position our office has taken in litigation that carry permits are necessary to promote public safety and would remove the main framework the State uses to regulate guns. It is inconsistent with the long-standing positions that the Attorney General's Office and the Maryland State Police have taken that carry permits are necessary for public safety. The Bill would also eliminate background checks and training requirements. Finally, HB 364 would essentially make Maryland a permit-free State in which anyone 21 or older could carry a handgun.

For all of the foregoing reasons, we urge an unfavorable report on House bill 364.

**cc:** The Honorable Robert L. Grammar, Jr. & Committee Members

This bill letter is a statement of the Office of Attorney General's policy position on the referenced pending legislation. For a legal or constitutional analysis of the bill, Members of the House and Senate should consult with the Counsel to the General Assembly, Sandy Brantley. She can be reached at 410-946-5600 or sbrantley@oag.state.md.us