



BILL NO: House Bill 824
TITLE: Public Safety - Regulated Firearms - Possession and Permits to Carry, Wear, and Transport a Handgun
COMMITTEE: Judiciary
HEARING DATE: February 22, 2023
POSITION: **SUPPORT**

The Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV) is the state domestic violence coalition that brings together victim service providers, allied professionals, and concerned individuals for the common purpose of reducing intimate partner and family violence and its harmful effects on our citizens. **MNADV urges the Judiciary Committee to issue a favorable report on HB 824.**

House Bill 824 includes numerous important measures to ensure that firearms are only accessed by those that are properly trained and prevents those that are prohibited from possessing firearms including wear, carry, transport permits. Notably, many of the provisions in HB 824 extend to those under an order of probation for a violation of a protective order. This is significant since there may have been a violation on a temporary or interim order of protection and a firearm surrender was not yet ordered or a term of probation exceeds the duration of a final protective order. HB 824 also explicitly states that a wear, carry, transport permit cannot be issued to someone who is a Respondent against whom there is a non ex-parte order of protection and requires a regular review to verify that those that possess permits still meet the statutory requirements for eligibility.

The risk of homicide for women increases by 500% with the presence of a gun in the home.¹ The 2021 domestic violence homicide numbers were the highest they have been in over ten years.² There were 58 Marylanders that lost their lives as the result of domestic violence in 2021. At least 47 children were left behind as a result of these deaths. A firearm was used in 76% of the deaths.

The most dangerous time for a victim of domestic violence is when they leave, increasing the risk of homicide as well as increased violence.³ Pursuant to a final order of protection a court, “shall order the respondent to surrender to law enforcement authorities any firearm in the

¹ The National Domestic Violence Hotline, Retrieved 1/29/21, <https://www.thehotline.org/resources/safety-planning-around-guns-and-firearms/>

² https://www.mnadv.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/2022-Memorial-Program-Trifold_Final-Version.pdf

³ <https://ncadv.org/why-do-victims-stay>

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respondent's possession, and to refrain from possession of any firearm, for the duration of the protective order.”⁴ It is within the court’s discretion whether to order the surrender of firearms for temporary orders of protection. In January 2023 firearms were ordered to be surrendered by 882 individuals pursuant to final orders of protection and 274 orders to vacate a home were rendered.⁵

For the above stated reasons, the **Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence urges a favorable report on HB 824.**

⁴ MD FAMILY § 4-506

⁵ https://mdcourts.gov/data/dv/DVCR_Statewide_2023_1.pdf