



2A Maryland

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House Bill 0162

Firearms - Maryland Voluntary Do Not Sell Firearm Registry - Establishment

UNFAVORABLE

House Bill 0162 is perhaps well-intentioned but extremely naïve in concept. It serves no useful purpose. Even for those who might choose to add their names to the registry to make a “political statement” it is not without its shortcomings and potential drawbacks.

There is a dichotomy between the time allowed to be placed on the registry and the time allowed for the person to be removed from the registry. The Maryland State Police have a maximum of 5 days to place a person on the registry. However, the Maryland State Police cannot remove a person from the registry sooner than 21 days after receiving the registrant’s request. There is no time limit on how long the Maryland State Police can delay the removal of the registrant from the registry. In fact, the language of this Bill contains no effective requirement that the Maryland State Police ever remove the registrant’s name. Nor is there any provision for recourse if the Maryland State Police intentionally or unintentionally take no action.

Inspection of a record is specifically authorized by the registrant, the registrant’s attorney, law enforcement and the general public. The provision in §5-905 which prohibits discrimination against persons on the registry clearly indicates the bill is intended to be a registry accessible to the general public.

The Bill demonstrates a total lack of understanding of the mindset of firearm owners, none of whom would ever willingly surrender their Constitutional Rights to any Government.

Background checks for the purchase of non-regulated firearms go through the Federal NICS only. They do not go through the Maryland State Police. There would be no means and no opportunity for the sale to be denied. Sales of non-regulated firearms would still be possible.

In the case of a person who already owns firearms, and for whatever reason places themselves on the registry, they still have possession of the firearms.

This Bill is a solution in search of a problem.

We strongly urge an unfavorable report.

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