



March 23, 2023

Senate Bill 185

**Maryland State Police Gun Center - Firearms Surrendered
Under Final Protective Orders**

House Judiciary Committee

Position: FAVORABLE

Anne Arundel County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 185 - Maryland State Police Gun Center - Firearms Surrendered Under Final Protective Orders. This Bill would expand the purpose of the Maryland State Police Gun Center to include the tracking, screening, and vetting of all firearms surrendered under final protective orders in the State and require the Center maintain a statewide database to track information on firearms surrendered under final protective orders in the State.

Between October 2018 and June 2020, the Anne Arundel Police Department (AACPD) petitioned for 86 Extreme Risk Protective Orders (ERPOs), which is when a judge deems that the evidence warrants temporarily removing guns from the individual - and seized 161 guns under the Red Flag laws in Maryland. AACPD leads the state in the Red Flag law. An Extreme Risk Protective Order (ERPO) is a court-issued civil order temporarily requiring a person to: surrender any firearms or ammunition to law enforcement; and not purchase or possess firearms ammunition. The Red Flag law, which not all states have, allows authorities to take guns from people who may pose a threat to themselves or others. Creating and maintaining a statewide system for tracking, screening, and vetting of firearms surrendered as part of a final protective order will be a valuable additional tool in the tool box to ensure that those who pose a danger to themselves or others do not have access to firearms.

For all of these reasons, I respectfully request a **FAVORABLE** report on Senate Bill 185.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steuart Pittman".

Steuart Pittman
County Executive