

Submitted by Wendy (Trebbe) McGowan
Resident of West River, MD

I respectfully ask you to Vote NO on Senate Bill 1.

I work in the real estate industry and this is to provide you with more facts as to why you should vote NO.

Data from the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS (NAR) website:

- According to the 2020 NAR Safety Survey, **in one year nearly 60,000 members were victims of violent crimes, including assault, sexual abuse, rape, robbery and murder**
- **YES you read that correctly nearly 60,000 NAR members were victim of violent crimes**
- Almost all crimes against real estate agents are **PREDATORY**
- Crime statistics show a predator **attacks 11 victims prior to arrest and conviction**
- **80%** of crimes go unreported
- Real Estate Agents have been declared a “**High Risk Occupation**” by the Department of Justice
- Male agents make up 30% of the attacks (This means 70% of victims are women agents)
- NAR is working on a “Trauma Response Team”
- NAR gives a WARNING on one of the NAR referenced videos provided below that what is going to be shown may be upsetting

The current right to carry without restrictions into real estate listings/showings/open houses gives real estate agents a possible chance to survive if/when there is an attack. SB1 would prevent agents from many legal means of self-defense, especially their Constitutional rights to bear arms in self-defense.

To be issued this license to carry, the applicant must go through a very lengthy application process including immense training, Maryland State Police background checks, interviews, finger printing and more at the applicant’s expense. Then renewals, again training, background checks, sign offs, etc.

Real estate professionals’ conduct their business activities at all hours, every day. Agents go into vacant properties, buildings, foreclosed homes and isolated areas that can have without warning squatters, unexpected persons and criminals in them. This also consists of showing properties and being in properties with people who cannot be fully vetted in advance to know if they are safe or dangerous. Open houses are assumed risks as anyone from the public can come in, has access to the advertising and website announcements. Real estate agents are targets through public websites, internet and access to personal information such as residential addresses, all easily found. It is necessary that agents and all Marylanders are allowed their

second amendment rights without restrictions as a precaution against dangers and a reasonable precaution against apprehended dangers. SB1 would pretty much end not only protection in a high risk occupation, it denies real estate agents the ability to dine and use facilities – even restrooms- which are necessary parts of the unconventional workday of this essential business.

SB1 denies rights to law abiding citizens of Maryland, State Police vetted, well trained professionals and does nothing to stop the criminals. SB1 is NOT the solution to crime. It only denies the law abiding citizens of Maryland their rights to their Second Amendment.

Here are links to videos and articles that will give you more information about the dangers in the occupation of real estate

1 – <https://www.nar.realtor/videos/predators-the-true-nature-of-crimes-against-realtors>

2 – <https://www.nar.realtor/videos/realtor-safety-coast-to-coast-how-safety-differs-across-the-nation>

3 - <https://www.wmar2news.com/news/local-news/jalil-george-young-real-estate-investor-shot-and-killed-in-park-heights#:~:text=Baltimore%20police%20were%20called%20to,he%20died%20at%20the%20scene>

*See the State of Maryland Department of Police written position on the next two pages



State of Maryland
Department of State Police
Government Affairs Section
Annapolis Office (410) 260-6100

POSITION ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION

DATE: February 7, 2023

BILL NUMBER: Senate Bill 0001 **POSITION:** Letter of Information

BILL TITLE: Criminal Law – Wearing, Carrying, or Transporting Firearms – Restrictions (Gun Safety Act of 2023)

REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

This legislation seeks to prohibit the wearing, carrying or transporting of a firearm on the real property of another without the express permission of the other. The legislation also prohibits the wearing, carrying, or transporting a firearm with 100 feet of a place of public accommodation as defined in law.

Under current law, a person may not carry a firearm in the following areas:

1. On school property ([CR 4-102](#))
2. Within 1,000 feet of a demonstration in a public place ([CR 4-208](#))
3. In legislative buildings ([SG 2-1702](#))
4. Aboard aircraft ([TR 5-1008](#))
5. In lodging establishments where the innkeeper reasonably believes individuals possess property that may be dangerous to other individuals, such as firearms or explosives ([BR 15-203](#))
6. On dredge boats, other than two 10 gauge shotguns ([NR 4-1013](#))
7. In or around State-owned public buildings and grounds ([COMAR 04.05.01.03](#))
8. On Chesapeake Forest Lands ([COMAR 08.01.07.14](#))
9. In State Forests ([COMAR 08.07.01.04](#))
10. In State Parks ([COMAR 08.07.06.04](#))
11. In State Highway Rest Areas, unless properly secured within vehicle ([COMAR 11.04.07.12](#))
12. In community adult rehabilitation centers ([COMAR 12.02.03.10](#))
13. In child care centers, except for small centers located in residences, firearms may not be kept on the premises ([COMAR 13A.16.10.04](#))

Senate Bill 1 expands the list of restricted areas to almost everywhere but the firearm owner's residence. However, the legislation does not exempt public safety personnel such as police officers both on and off duty, police officers from other states within Maryland on official business, active military personnel, security guards, private detectives, federal contractors, correctional officers, special agents of the railroad, armored car personnel, or special police officers.

The legislation doesn't consider those permit holders who received a wear and carry permit for a "good and substantial reason" prior to the issuance of the Bruen decision. As an example, judges, state's attorneys, victims of crime or domestic violence, and legislators to name a few, have applied for and received handgun permits due to direct threats against their lives. There are thousands of permit holders who received a permit for business purposes who transport money, bonds, or precious jewels.

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Although the Bruen decision eliminates the need for a “good and substantial reason” to carry a firearm, this legislation makes it a crime for those who had a good reason to carry a firearm prior to Bruen to carry a firearm to protect themselves.

Maryland law does not recognize handgun permits from other states. This position does not change as a result of the Bruen decision. Laws similar to SB 1 have passed in New York and are currently in litigation in Federal court.