



Statement in Opposition: Senate Bill 001

To: House Judiciary Committee

From: Eric Blitz, Chair of the Libertarian Party of Maryland

March 27, 2023

Chair Clippinger, Vice-Chair Moon, Members of the Committee:

The Libertarian Party of Maryland opposes passage of SB 001, which imposes additional and unjust barriers to the right to self-defense through firearms in the context of carry-permits. We believe elements of the bill are unconstitutional and others imprudent. We'll focus this testimony on the latter because even after the amendments in the House, there are areas of significant concern.

While we support the right of private property owners to control firearms possession on their property, this bill discriminates between those private property owners by mandating exclusion for some property owners. Because it impacts so many businesses in the hospitality industry and their locations are so ubiquitous, are locations licensed to sell or dispense alcohol (and soon cannabis) such as most restaurants. That impacts not only the business but the individual carry permit holder to an unreasonable degree.

In addition, including the broad definition of a health care facility in the exclusion zones captures many businesses and institutions that have no reasonable relationship to gun exclusion. With respect to hospitals, it is unknown how this will impact carry-permit holders who are injured or otherwise require emergency care.

We especially find offensive the attempt to limit carry permits at protected 1st Amendment gatherings, protests or rallies. The triggering definition is overbroad and unworkable, as the carry permit holder is not going to know whether a gathering, protest or rally permit was require or not.

On behalf of the Libertarian Party of Maryland, we ask for an unfavorable report from the committee on SB 001.

Sincerely,

/s/

Eric Blitz, Chair
Libertarian Party of Maryland

Libertarian Party of Maryland
P.O. Box 176, Abingdon, Maryland 20009-0176
1-800-MLP-1776
By Authority: Robert S. Johnston, III, Treasurer