

SB 378 Theft of a Handgun.pdf

Uploaded by: Cathy Wright

Position: FAV



SB 378
Criminal Law – Theft of a Handgun

FAVORABLE

The Maryland State Rifle & Pistol Association (MSRPA) supports SB 378, Criminal Law – Theft of a Handgun, a bill that would make the theft of a firearm a felony, rather than a misdemeanor, and increase penalties accordingly, regardless of the value of the stolen firearm.

The MSRPA is the official National Rifle Association state organization for Maryland. The MSRPA's mission is to defend your rights in Maryland, support training in firearm safety and shooting skills through its affiliated clubs, and sponsor and sanction local competition throughout the state.

Gun thefts are a serious threat to public safety. If Maryland's leaders are serious about reducing violent crime, then our state should treat gun thefts as a serious crime, not a slap on the wrist. Governor Wes Moore has made public safety a priority and our state's attorneys, Aisha Braveboy (Prince George County) and Ivan Bates (Baltimore) recently announced proposals they say will help curb violent crime: "The ultimate goal is not to lock everyone up forever; the ultimate goal is rehabilitation," Braveboy said. "But how can you have rehabilitation without accountability? That's what we are looking for." Theft of a firearm is considered a felony in many states, including Idaho, Arizona, Ohio, Washington, and California. In 2016, California voters approved Proposition 63 by more than 63%, which among other policies moved theft of a firearm from a misdemeanor to a felony.

Thieves and criminals know that if they steal a rifle, a shotgun, or a handgun, they will not be held accountable because the value of such firearm is most likely valued at less than \$1,500, and its theft is not punishable with imprisonment. The monetary value of a firearm is irrelevant when it is in the hands of someone with evil intent. We need to be committed to ensuring that our state laws are tools used to deter crime and make criminals accountable for their actions.

In previous years similar bills have been proposed and received significant favorable testimony. The MSRPA respectfully requests a FAVORABLE report on SB 378.

Cathy S. Wright
MSRPA VP, Legislative Affairs
cwright@msrpa.org
<https://msrpa.org>

SB 378 Fav.pdf

Uploaded by: Christopher West

Position: FAV

CHRIS WEST
Legislative District 42
Baltimore and Carroll Counties

Judicial Proceedings Committee



Annapolis Office
James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 322
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3648 · 301-858-3648
800-492-7122 Ext. 3648
Chris.West@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 2nd, 2024
The Maryland State Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
2 East Miller Senate Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Senate Bill 378: *Criminal Law – Theft of a Handgun*

Dear Chairman Smith and Members of the Committee,

Under existing law, the penalty for the theft of a firearm is covered by our general law against the theft of property. In such cases, the penalty imposed upon someone convicted of theft is based on the value of the property stolen. The theft of a handgun worth \$250 is merely a misdemeanor and carries with it a penalty of \$500 or 6 months in jail or both for the first offense. Even for a second offense of stealing a firearm, the offense is once again a misdemeanor and carries with it a penalty of \$500 or 1 year in jail or both. The theft of a \$250 handgun under Maryland law is thus treated identically to the theft of a \$250 vase. Both are misdemeanors, and both result in de minimis fines or modest time behind bars. Of course, the stolen firearm is far more lethal and far more dangerous than the stolen vase, but under our current law, both crimes are treated identically.

Over the past several years, the Judicial Proceedings Committee has repeatedly considered legislation to prevent firearms from falling into the wrong hands. Most of these bills have targeted honest, law-abiding citizens exercising their Second Amendment right to own guns who have sold or lent their guns to others. Generally speaking, the people to whom the guns have been sold or lent are honest folks, not criminals. By contrast, Senate Bill 378 focuses exclusively on criminals, and worst yet, criminals who steal guns.

The problem of stolen guns on our streets is a serious one. Any attempt to reduce shooting deaths has to start with the fact that many criminals who use guns to commit crimes and kill people are doing it with stolen weapons. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms has found that stolen firearms are “a threat to community safety as well as law enforcement” and that “stolen firearms are crime guns; they fuel illicit trafficking and are used by violent criminals to terrorize our communities. Given these facts, Maryland’s law dealing with the theft of a weapon with little more than a slap on the wrist is absurd.

Now let me briefly explain Senate bill 378. It removes the theft of a handgun from the general theft statute and creates the new crime of theft of a handgun. Such a theft is branded a felony.

For a first conviction, the penalty for theft of a handgun is a fine of up to \$1,000 or up to 5 years in prison or both. For a second conviction, the penalty rises to up to \$2,500 or up to 10 years in prison or both. And because the theft of a handgun now becomes a felony, a person convicted of theft of a handgun will fall into the category of disqualified persons under federal and state law who are prohibited from ever legally owning a firearm.

There is another benefit that will arise due to Senate Bill 378. Far too often, firearm thefts are currently never prosecuted by our State's Attorneys because they are merely misdemeanors. Once we elevate thefts of firearms to felonies and place the focus on the criminal and the criminal behavior involved in the theft of a firearm, our State's Attorneys can be expected to give these cases the serious attention that they deserve.

I appreciate the Committee's consideration of Senate Bill 378 and will be happy to answer any questions the Committee may have.

SB0378.pdf

Uploaded by: Galen Muhammad

Position: FAV

SB0378

After all safety measures of firearm storage are taken, those who steal firearms are a menace to society and should receive a penalty worthy of the crime that they have committed. Thank you for acknowledging that a firearm is a firearm, regardless of its value. Unlike law-abiding citizens who invest time, effort, energy and money in not merely being armed to protect themselves, but being properly trained and licensed, criminals have no good intentions with the stolen firearms that they steal from others. Current law minimizes the penalty for the theft of a gun valued at \$1400 or less. There are many firearms on the market, brand new and popular brands, that sell for **far less** the \$1400. This bill acknowledges the fact that a criminal with stolen \$200 gun may commit as much mayhem as a criminal with a stolen \$2500 gun. And it's that criminal that should be held accountable.

I ask that this bill receives a favorable review.

BaltimoreCounty_FAV_SB0378.pdf

Uploaded by: Jennifer Lynch

Position: FAV



JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR.
County Executive

JENNIFER AIOSA
Director of Government Affairs

AMANDA KONTZ CARR
Legislative Officer

WILLIAM J. THORNE
Legislative Associate

BILL NO.: **SB 378**

TITLE: Criminal Law – Theft of a Handgun

SPONSOR: Senator West

COMMITTEE: Judicial Proceedings

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 2, 2024

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 378 – Criminal Law – Theft of a Handgun. This legislation would make the theft of a handgun a felony. As a result, those who are found responsible for stealing handguns would then be prohibited from the possession of firearms and would additionally face harsher penalties as a result.

Under current law, the theft of a handgun is a misdemeanor. This punishment is incongruous with the harm done with stolen weapons; an individual can be convicted of stealing a handgun, face misdemeanor charges, and would not be prohibited from legally possessing a firearm. Baltimore County detectives often recover handguns involved in crimes that are stolen. There is a substantial market for stolen handguns, and individuals who cannot legally possess a handgun are willing to pay a significant price, over the retail value, for stolen handguns. This situation continues to fuel gun violence plaguing the State.

SB 378 would complement efforts taken in Baltimore County and statewide to curb gun theft. In 2020, Baltimore County passed the Secure All Firearms Effectively (SAFE) Act bipartisan measure, which would require firearm retail establishments in Baltimore County to install responsible security measures to protect their inventory from potential burglaries. The legislation was introduced following a string of incidents wherein Baltimore County firearm retail establishments were burglarized 10 times in 2018 and 2019. In four of those incidents, burglars succeeded in stealing firearms, including one incident in which 51 weapons were stolen. Weapons stolen from these burglaries are often sold and used to commit additional crimes. Additional punitive measures, as proposed in SB 378 would help address the issue of thieves stealing handguns, getting convicted, and continuing to legally possess a handgun.

Accordingly, Baltimore County urges a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 378. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov.

SB0378_Testimony_2A_Maryland.pdf

Uploaded by: John Josselyn

Position: FAV



**Senate Bill 0378
Gun Theft Felony Act of 2024
FAVORABLE**

During multiple Sessions over the last decade, bills which would elevate the severity of firearm theft above the level of a simple misdemeanor theft of property have been considered and rejected by this Committee.

Under existing law, the penalty for the theft of firearms is based on the value of the property stolen.

The theft of an inexpensive but fully functional firearm with a value under \$100 is a misdemeanor offense punishable by up to 90 days imprisonment or a fine not exceeding \$500 or both.

For a first offense, a person who steals multiple fully functional firearms with a combined value of less than \$1,500 is guilty of only a misdemeanor and subject to imprisonment not exceeding 6 months or a fine not exceeding \$500 or both. A conviction for this offense does not result in prohibiting the offender from legally owning a firearm.

For a second or subsequent offense, a person who steals multiple fully functional firearms with a combined value of less than \$1,500, is guilty of only a misdemeanor and subject to imprisonment not exceeding 1 year or a fine not exceeding \$500 or both. This offense also does not result in prohibiting the offender from legally owning a firearm.

Firearms theft does not reach the level of a felony until the value exceeds \$25,000.

The mere possession of a home-built un-serialized firearm is a misdemeanor offense and upon conviction a person is subject to imprisonment for up to 5 years or a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or both. A conviction results in a lifetime prohibition on owning or possessing a firearm. This penalty makes stealing a fully functioning factory-built firearm rather than building a so-called "ghost gun," a far more attractive option.

Senate Bill 0378
Favorable

If a firearm owner stores a firearm in such a way that a minor or prohibited person could gain simple access to the firearm, even with no other action or event involved, the firearm owner is subject to a misdemeanor offense and a fine of up to \$1,000. Why does the State punish an otherwise law-abiding citizen more severely than a criminal who is supplying stolen firearms to other criminals?

Senate Bill 378 treats the theft of a firearm as the serious crime it is and places the focus on the criminal and the criminal behavior involved in the theft of a firearm. Once stolen, a firearm is no longer in the stream of lawful commerce and will be possessed, transferred, or used in violation of the law. It is time for the Maryland General Assembly to recognize the severity of crimes involving the theft of a firearm.

Elevating the severity of firearms theft from a simple misdemeanor to a felony offense with significant penalty provisions is not only appropriate but necessary.

We strongly urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 378.

Respectfully,

John H. Josselyn
2A Maryland
02/01/2024

2A Maryland - Maryland Gun Laws 1988-2023

Session	Bill Number	Bill Title
1988	HB1131	Handguns - Prohibition of Manufacture and Sale (Saturday Night Special Ban)
1989	SB0531	Firearms - Assault Weapons
1992	SB0043	Firearms - Access by Minors
1993	SB0330	Gun Shows - Sale, Trade or Transfer of Regulated Firearms
1994	HB0595?	Storehouse Breaking - Penalty
1994	SB0619	Assault Pistol Ban
1996	HB0297	Maryland Gun Violence Act of 1996
1996	HB1254	Education - Expulsion for Bringing a Firearm onto School Property
1999	HB0907	School Safety Act of 1999
2000	SB0211	Responsible Gun Safety Act of 2000
2001	HB0305	Bulletproof Body Armor - Prohibitions
2002	HB1272	Criminal Justice Information System - Criminal History Records Check
2009	HB0296	Family Law - Protective Orders - Surrender of Firearms
2009	HB0302	Family Law - Temporary Protective Orders - Surrender of Firearms
2011	HB0241	Criminal Law - Restrictions Against Use and Possession of Firearms
2011	HB0519	Firearms - Violation of Specified Prohibitions - Ammunition and Penalty
2012	HB0209	Public Safety - Possession of Firearms - Crimes Committed in Other States
2012	HB0618	Task Force to Study Access of Individuals with Mental Illness to Regulated Firearms
2013	SB0281	Firearms Safety Act of 2013
2018	HB1029	Criminal Law - Wearing, Carrying or Transporting Loaded Handgun - Subsequent Offender
2018	HB1302	Public Safety - Extreme Risk Protective Orders
2018	HB1646	Criminal Procedure - Firearms Transfer
2018	SB0707	Criminal Law - Firearm Crimes - Rapid Fire Trigger Activators
2019	SB0346	Public Safety - Regulated Firearms - Prohibition of Loans
2020	HB1629	Office of the Attorney General - Firearm Crime, Injuries, Fatalities, and Crime Firearms - Study
2021	HB1186	Office of the Attorney General - Firearm Crime, Injuries, Fatalities, and Crime Firearms - Study Extension
2022	SB0387	Public Safety - Untraceable Firearms
2022	SB0861	Crimes - Firearms and Inmates - Enforcement, Procedures, and Reporting
2022	HB1021	Public Safety – Licensed Firearms Dealers – Security Requirements
2023	SB0001	Criminal Law - Wearing, Carrying, or Transporting Firearms - Restrictions (Gun Safety Act of 2023)
2023	SB0858	Firearm Safety - Storage Requirements and Youth Suicide Prevention (Jaelynn's Law)
2023	HB0824	Public Safety - Regulated Firearms - Possession and Permits to Carry, Wear, and Transport a Handgun

MSI Testimony on SB 378 and HB 659 theft of handgu

Uploaded by: Mark Pennak

Position: FAV



February 1, 2024

WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF MARK W. PENNAK, PRESIDENT, MSI, IN SUPPORT OF SB 378 and HB 659

I am the President of Maryland Shall Issue (“MSI”). Maryland Shall Issue is a Section 501(c)(4), all-volunteer, non-partisan organization dedicated to the preservation and advancement of gun owners’ rights in Maryland. It seeks to educate the community about the right of self-protection, the safe handling of firearms, and the responsibility that goes with carrying a firearm in public. I am also an attorney and an active member of the Bar of Maryland and of the Bar of the District of Columbia. I recently retired from the United States Department of Justice, where I practiced law for 33 years in the Courts of Appeals of the United States and in the Supreme Court of the United States. I am an expert in Maryland firearms law, federal firearms law and the law of self-defense. I am also a Maryland State Police certified handgun instructor for the Maryland Wear and Carry Permit and the Maryland Handgun Qualification License (“HQL”) and a certified NRA instructor in rifle, pistol, personal protection in the home, personal protection outside the home and in muzzle loader. I appear today as President of MSI in SUPPORT of SB 378 and the cross-file, HB 659.

The Bill

The purpose of this bill is to provide for greatly enhanced penalties for the theft of a handgun. Under current law, theft of any firearm is treated just like the theft of any other piece of personal property. For example, under MD Code Criminal Law § 7-104(g)(2), “a person convicted of theft of property or services with a value of at least \$100 but less than \$1,500, is guilty of a misdemeanor and: (i) is subject to: 1. for a first conviction, imprisonment not exceeding 6 months or a fine not exceeding \$500 or both; and 2. for a second or subsequent conviction, imprisonment not exceeding 1 year or a fine not exceeding \$500 or both. The bill would change these penalties for theft of a firearm to a felony and would impose, on the first offense, a term of imprisonment not exceeding 5 years and/or a fine of \$1,000. Subsequent offenses are punishable by imprisonment for a term not less than 5 years and not exceeding 10 years and/or a fine not exceeding \$2,500. These punishments are similar to the provisions enacted in 2020 by the Senate in SB 35 which likewise made theft of a firearm (not merely a handgun) a felony and punished such theft with imprisonment for up to 5 years and a fine of \$10,000. SB 35 further required the thief to restore the firearm to the owner or pay the owner the value of the firearm. That compensation requirement is not in this Bill but could be amended to add it.

The Bill Is Necessary For the Public Safety:

Simply put, it is unbelievable that theft of a firearm is punishable so lightly under current law. The value of most firearms, including most handguns, falls into the range of between \$100 and \$1,500 and thus theft of such firearms is currently punished **at most** by 6 months in prison and/or a small fine. In reality, persons convicted of such a crime don’t see

any jail time at all, as the Maryland Sentencing Guidelines classify this property crime as the least serious offense listed in the Guidelines and one that is actually punished by mere probation. See <http://www.msccsp.org/Guidelines/Matrices.aspx#property>. Since this offense is currently a misdemeanor and is not punishable by imprisonment by more than two years, a conviction for this crime is not even sufficient to render the person a disqualified person under federal and state law. See 18 U.S.C. 921(a)(20)(B), Public Safety, § 5-101(g)(3). In contrast, by changing the offense to a felony, this bill would render a person convicted of this crime a disqualified person under federal and state law and thus may not possess modern firearms or modern ammunition for life. See 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(1), MD Code, Public Safety, § 5-101(g)(2). Give the severe public safety consequences associated with stolen firearms, that result is fully appropriate.

Subsequent possession of any modern firearm or ammunition by a person subject to this firearms disability is punishable by up to 15 years of imprisonment under federal law. See 18 U.S.C. § 924(a)(8). Maryland law likewise bans possession of a regulated firearm (handgun or assault weapon) by a disqualified person. MD Code, Public Safety, § 5-133(b)(1). Possession of a regulated firearm by such a disqualified person is punishable with up to 5 years of imprisonment and/or a fine of \$10,000 under MD Code, Public Safety, § 5-144(b). By contrast, under Maryland law, possession of a regulated firearm by a felon previously convicted of a **crime of violence** is punished more severely; such possession is “subject to imprisonment for **not less** than 5 years and not exceeding 15 years.” MD Code, Public Safety, § 5-133(c)(2). Similarly, simple possession of a rifle or a shotgun by any disqualified person is punishable by imprisonment of 3 years and/or a fine of \$1,000. See MD Code, Public Safety, § 5-205(d).

There is simply no incentive to actually investigate or prosecute this theft crime under current law and thus actual prosecution to conviction is very rare. Compare this non-punishment for the thief to the \$500 fine imposed on **the victim** of gun theft for a mere failure **to report** a theft of a firearm within 72 hours. See MD Code, Public Safety, § 5-146. A second offense of a failure to report is punished even more severely, with 90 days of imprisonment and/or a \$500 fine. It should be obvious that a thief is more culpable than the victim. Yet, what is the point of reporting the theft if nothing happens to the thief? Indeed, because this theft crime is punished so lightly under current law, the convicted thief **remains free to legally buy and legally possess a firearm, including a handgun.**

Stealing a firearm is a serious threat to the community and, as such, well deserving of actual punishment. The federal BATF has found that stolen firearms are a “threat to community safety as well as law enforcement,” and that “stolen firearms are crime guns; they fuel illicit trafficking and are used by violent criminals to terrorize our communities.” <https://www.foxnews.com/us/where-do-criminals-get-guns>. See also David J. Cherrington, *Crime and Punishment: Does Punishment Work?* at 4 (2007) (“Studies of punishment have shown that individuals who have observed others being punished change their behavior almost as much as those who were actually punished.”), available at <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1953&context=facpub>.

Indeed, the non-punishment accorded to the thief is particularly striking in light of the **severe penalties** that Maryland metes out to otherwise law-abiding citizens of Maryland who inadvertently happen to run afoul of one of the many criminal provisions of Maryland’s firearms law. For example, a new resident of Maryland who neglected to

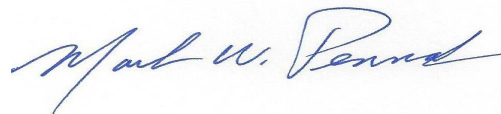
register his or her regulated firearm within 90 days of becoming a Maryland resident, as required by MD Code, Public Safety, § 5-143, risks imprisonment for **5 years** and/or a \$10,000 fine under MD Code, Public Safety, § 5-144(b). A law-abiding person who merely “receives” a handgun in Maryland without possessing a Handgun Qualification License issued under by MD Code, Public Safety, § 5-117.1, likewise risks **5 years** imprisonment and/or a fine under Section 5-144.

An otherwise innocent “transport” or possession in Maryland of a so-called “assault weapon” banned by MD Code Criminal Law §4-303, including by a non-resident who is merely traveling through the State, is punishable by up to **3 years** imprisonment and/or a fine of \$5,000 under MD Code Criminal Law §4-306, regardless of whether the person even knew of the prohibition. No *mens rea* showing is required. Under MD Code Criminal Law § 4-203(c)(2), a person is “subject to imprisonment **for not less than 30 days and not exceeding 5 years** or a fine of not less than \$250 and not exceeding \$2,500 or both” for as little as leaving an unloaded handgun in the car’s trunk while doing grocery shopping on the way home from the range. Such a stop is arguably an improper “transport” in a vehicle under Section 4-203(a)(1)(ii) under the exception set forth in Section 4-203(b)(4). The “knowingly” *mens rea* requirement for this “transport” offense is presumed under Section 4-203(a)(2).

And severe punishment is not restricted to firearms. Absentmindedly taking a penknife (e.g., a Swiss Army knife) anywhere onto school “property” (including while in a vehicle) is an arguable violation of MD Code Criminal Law §4-102, and that crime is punishable by imprisonment not exceeding **3 years** or a fine not exceeding \$1,000 or both, regardless of scienter. Under MD Code Criminal Law, § 4-101(c)(1),(d), merely carrying **pepper mace** in one’s pocket can be punished by **3 years** of imprisonment and/or a \$1,000 fine. Again, no *mens rea* required. Because all these crimes are punishable by more than 2 years of imprisonment, a conviction of any one of these crimes will result in a life-time firearms disqualification under both federal and State law.

Maryland should not be punishing mistakes by otherwise innocent persons so severely while letting actual **thieves of firearms** off the hook with the proverbial “slap on the wrist.” After all, thieves actually know that stealing is criminal. Nothing good can come from stealing a firearm. In 2020, JPR favorably reported on the comprehensive provisions of SB 35 by a vote of 10-1 with only Senator Carter casting a nay vote. We urge a unanimous favorable report on this stand-alone bill.

Sincerely,



Mark W. Pennak
President, Maryland Shall Issue, Inc.
mpennak@marylandshallissue.org

SB0378 Witness Testimony 2024 Theft of a Hand Gun.

Uploaded by: Patricia Fallon

Position: FAV



To: Senate Judiciary Committee

Subject: SB0378

Date January 31, 2024

Dear Senators,

SB0378 – Theft of a Hand Gun

The Baltimore County Republican Party completely **SUPPORTS** SB0378 making theft of a hand gun a felony..

Illegal weapons are involved in a high percentage of criminal activity.

Studies in Chicago and San Fransisco show that 90% of crimes committed with weapons are with illegal firearms and that the firearms are stolen and /or easy to acquire.

Therefore, stealing a hand gun should be a felony.

Thank you,

Patricia Fallon
Chair, Baltimore County Republican Central Committee
14823 Hanover Pike
Upperco, MD 21155
Baltimore County



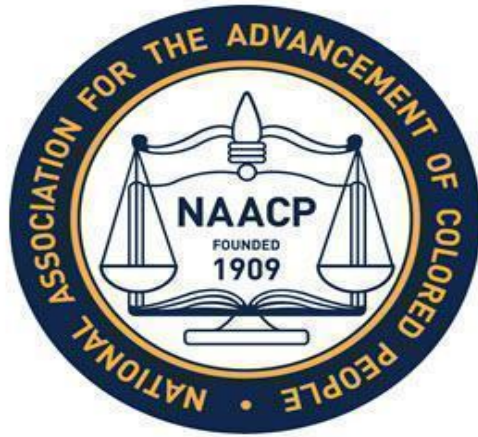
Patricia Fallon
Baltimore County Republican Central Committee
Chairman
410-429-6005
www.BaltimoreCountyGOP.com
email: hanoverprf@comcast.net



SB 0378 Favorable vote .pdf

Uploaded by: Ryan Coleman

Position: FAV



Randallstown

P.O. Box 731 Randallstown, MD 21133

Jan 31, 2024
Immediate Release

Contact: Ryan Coleman, President
randallstownnaacp@gmail.com

Randallstown NAACP supports SB 0378-Criminal Law - Theft of a Handgun

Police have reported an alarming increase in thefts of handguns from unlocked vehicles, businesses, and private residences. For decades, gun violence has taken a disproportionate and grueling toll on Black communities—leading to tens of thousands of gun deaths and hundreds of thousands of gun injuries. The impact of gun violence on this community is particularly devastating for young Black men.

For too long the seriousness of handgun theft has been downgraded. Maryland and the community must show our actions to meet the seriousness of gun violence. We must try to have a comprehensive plan to interrupt the flow of handguns.

SB 0378 signals that Maryland will not tolerate individuals stealing handguns and gives law enforcement more tools to fight violence. **The Randallstown NAACP requests a favorable vote on SB 0378.**

01.31.24 LOS SB 0378 Joint.pdf

Uploaded by: Terry Hale

Position: FAV

Danielle Hornberger
County Executive

Steven Overbay
Acting Director of Administration

Office: 410.996.5202
Email: dhornberger@ccgov.org



Jackie Gregory
Council President

Robert Meffley
Vice President

Office: 410.996.5201
Email: council@ccgov.org

CECIL COUNTY GOVERNMENT
Cecil County Administration Building
200 Chesapeake Boulevard, Elkton, MD 21921

January 31, 2024

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB 0378 Criminal Law – Theft of a Handgun
Letter of Support

Dear Chairman Smith and Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee:

The County Council and the County Executive of Cecil County unanimously supports SB 0378 Criminal Law – Theft of a Handgun. The hearing on this legislation is scheduled on February 1, 2024.

It is our understanding that this legislation is establishing the felony of theft of a handgun; and establishing a penalty for theft of a handgun of, for a first conviction, imprisonment of up to 5 years or a fine of up to \$1,000 or both and, for a second or subsequent conviction, imprisonment of up to 10 years or a fine of up to \$2,500 or both.

Cecil County strongly supports this, and any bill, the creates penalties for the theft of a handgun.

The County Executive and County Council of Cecil County respectfully requests that the Judicial Proceedings Committee send a favorable report on SB 0378.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Hornberger".

Danielle Hornberger
County Executive

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jackie Gregory".

Jackie Gregory
President of County Council