



## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

February 21, 2024

The Honorable Luke Clippinger  
Chair, House Judiciary Committee  
Room 101, House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

**RE: House Bill 794 – Regulated Firearms – Maryland Voluntary Do Not Sell Firearm Process – Letter of Information**

Dear Chair Clippinger and Committee members:

The Maryland Department of Health (the Department) respectfully submits this letter of information for House Bill (HB) 794 – Maryland Voluntary Do Not Sell Firearm Process. HB 794 requires the Department to create and maintain a Voluntary Do Not Sell Firearm Registry through which a person could enroll to be prohibited from obtaining a regulated firearm. The bill prohibits a firearms dealer from selling, renting, loaning, or transferring a regulated firearm to an individual on the registry. The Department would, upon the verification of an application, issue notice of the approved application to the Criminal Justice Information System Central Repository of the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, and the Maryland State Police.

Between 2012 and 2019, firearms decreased as a mechanism of suicide (from 48% to 42%), then started to rise again, reaching 51% in 2021.<sup>1</sup> The Department supports the goal of preventing firearm-related violence, fatalities, and injuries. However, the bill will require infrastructure investment, as the Department would need to quickly establish access to data and data use agreements with the Motor Vehicle Administration and Comptroller for applicant verification, as well as new secure software to communicate results to the Maryland State Police and Central Repository. To develop the software required to support the Maryland Voluntary Do Not Sell Firearm Registry in the timeframe required (by December 31, 2024), the Department will need to engage short-term contract resources, which brings with it a cost of \$223,034 in the first year.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Case-Herron, Director of Governmental Affairs at [sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov](mailto:sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H.  
Secretary

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<sup>1</sup> CDC WISQARS Maryland Fatal Injury Data, accessed (various dates) at <https://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/fatal/index.html>