

Honorable Delegates of the House Judiciary Committee, representatives, and guests.

I am a retired First Sergeant Sarah Mastronardi and former Acting Commander of the Annapolis Barrack with the Maryland State Police currently representing the Maryland State Police Alumni Association, where I serve as their President. This is an uncompensated position. Our retirees serve a group of approximately 1500 retired troopers. I have over 30 years of law enforcement experience as I started with the department in the late 1970's. I am honored to speak with you today on subject matter, Handgun Permits- Retired Law Enforcement.

Upon my retirement, I was afforded the opportunity to apply for a handgun permit as a retired police officer in good standing. Good standing means that the officer has retired from the department with no adverse charges or disciplinary action and has received positive evaluation and No criminal record. The retiree receives a retirement badge and identification card to confirm their service and identity with the department.

The first permit after retirement expires after two years. Then the applicant has to re-apply at least 60 days before its expiration. At no time can you carry the firearm or permit to carry after expiration. Subsequently, after the first permit, subsequent permits expire after three years. The applicant must re-apply in all circumstances. It is our request that the three-year expiration be extended to a reasonable time, no less than five years moving forward.

During my tenure with the Maryland State Police, I served in the Handgun Permits Section. The abundant amount of initial and renewal applications are enormous. The workload for the investigators to handle unit and renewal applications takes valuable time from the investigations. Should you be willing to extend the period for our law-abiding retirees, this would also lessen the workload for the department in that unit, decreasing the backlog of investigations, and lessen the overtime funds needed to conduct those cases.

Even though our retired troopers that have permits do not have ANY criminal record, the same process has to be conducted for our renewal. We retirees are law abiding, honorable citizens. Many of us continue to serve in various services in the community from serving meals to the homeless to transporting the elderly to medical appointments. Some of our retirees go back into the workforce as bailiffs, security officers, and self-employed entrepreneurs. But please note that we all served our state with integrity. In turn, we would like the consideration to extend our expiration of the existing handgun permit to at least five years. Thank you for your time and attention.