

HB0546

This is an unnecessary bill and we oppose it.

As certified firearms instructors in Maryland, we know of **only one** exception to whom is granted a concealed carry permit in Maryland or the Handgun Qualification License (**HQL**) without being taught and demonstrating the safe handling of a firearm: Military or prior military personnel, who may not have had much if **any** experience with firearms.

As I've stated to this committee before, some who serve in the military do so in an administrative capacity **ONLY** and may have only fired an M-16 once during their basic training over 30 years ago.

But the vast majority already know the basic firearm safety principle of not putting their finger on the trigger or inside the trigger guard until one is one target and have made the conscious decision to shoot. We also teach our students to buy appropriate holsters which deny access to the trigger and trigger guard. I teach this to all of my students, even my HQL students.

These accidents happen due to carelessness and overconfidence. We teach our students **and ourselves** to avoid those characteristics and to be always mindful that we are handling a potentially dangerous tool.

Passing this bill into law would 1) not apply to HQL license holders who have accidental discharges in their homes, unless they self-report nor would it apply to them on the range and 2) would not teach concealed carry permit holders any new lessons that they don't already know. This is why it is important to train and retrain on a regular basis, not just once to get a firearm or license.

I ask that this bill receives an unfavorable review.