



**State of Maryland**  
**Department of State Police**  
Government Affairs Unit  
Annapolis Office (410) 260-6100

**POSITION ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

**DATE:** March 6, 2024

**BILL NUMBER:** House Bill 1166      **POSITION:** Letter of Information

**BILL TITLE:** Handguns – Wear, Carry, and Transport laws – Handbook Publication

**REVIEW AND ANALYSIS**

This legislation requires the Secretary of the State Police to publish a handbook summarizing the state laws that apply to the wearing, carrying, and transporting of a handgun in public. The handbook shall be published in plain language that can easily be understood and made available to the public.

Under current law, the Department is required to publish a training curriculum for the mandatory training required to obtain a handgun wear and carry permit. (HB824 of 2023) The training includes federal and state firearm laws and is required to be updated as federal and state law changes. Additionally, the law requires that the DSP shall transmit to each email address on file with the DSP that is associated with the purchaser or transferee of a regulated firearm a summary of each new law or change to existing law pertaining to firearms within 45 days after the General Assembly adjourns Sine Die in a legislative session.

House Bill 1166 will require the DSP to incur an annual negative budget impact over \$300,000. This is an unfunded mandate and cannot be absorbed in our budget. The printing costs alone for the English version of the handbook is approx. \$200,000, assuming we do not receive requests for the handbook exceeding 200,000 copies. State Government Article, Section 10-1103 requires DSP to also publish the handbook in multiple languages that meet the standard in law. The only other language required today is Spanish. The cost for a company to translate the English version to Spanish as well as publishing another 100,000 copies will add more than \$100,000 annually to the unfunded mandate. DSP consulted with the Secretary of State's office to confirm DSP would have to publish the handbook in English and Spanish.

The unfunded mandates established by HB 1166 put a greater burden on the DSP Licensing Division. In addition to the overwhelming number of applications received daily, this legislation creates additional operational and fiscal burdens on the DSP. The fiscal burden will require funding in perpetuity.

The legislation also has a technical flaw. The bill requires the report to be completed on or before the bill's effective date.