

HB 935

My Name is Mark Schneider I am the Vice President of the Maryland Licensed Firearm Dealers Association.

Our organization opposes HB 935 as it threatens our members' ability to stay in business.

Any tax in addition to the current 6% Maryland sales tax would simply encourage residents to shop for their firearms, ammunition, and related firearms accessories out of state. Ammunition and firearm accessories could still be purchased online and shipped directly to the purchaser or picked up in another state, thereby avoiding both the Maryland sales tax and the proposed 11% "excise tax". In accordance with both Federal and State laws, firearms could be purchased from dealers out of state and shipped to a licensed dealer in Maryland in compliance with required background checks. This would also avoid both the current 6% sales tax and 11% excise tax.

This unjustly targets only Legal Firearms Dealers. As there are many businesses in Maryland who do not have a FFL but still sell ammunition and firearms accessories, who would be exempt from this "excise tax".

The net result of this is millions in lost income to the state. Maryland dealers would be unable to compete with out of state dealers potentially resulting in thousands of job losses and many closed businesses.

If the true purpose of this legislation is to reduce the number of firearms purchased in Maryland and to increase tax revenue, it will do neither.

We urge an unfavorable report.