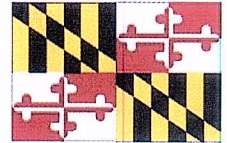




CLYDE BOATWRIGHT  
STATE PRESIDENT

Maryland State Lodge  
**FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE**

8302 COVE ROAD, BALTIMORE, MD 21222



KENNY SCHUBERT  
SECRETARY

EARL KRATSCH  
TREASURER

February 20, 2024

**HB 935 - Comprehensive Community Safety Funding Act**

Dear Chair Atterbeary and Distinguished Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

The Maryland State Fraternal Order of Police offers this letter of information to voice the concerns we have with House Bill 935 - **Comprehensive Community Safety Funding Act** as it concerns our members.

**House Bill 935** will create and impose a firearm, firearm accessory, and ammunition excise tax and set that rate at 11%. If created the law specifies how this new excise tax would be distributed as well. This tax would not apply to a Law Enforcement Agency, the Armed Forces of the United States, or the National Guard.

Both Active and Retired Law Enforcement Officers in this State purchase and carry firearms and the ammunition that goes with them for their off duty and/or personal use. While active officers are issued service firearms and the required ammunition for them, there is a need to purchase ammunition throughout the year for those that utilize a firearms range to remain proficient with their firearms. Many also purchase smaller or different firearms than their service firearm to carry off duty. Retired Officers purchase firearms that they legally carry with a Maryland State handgun permit or a Law Enforcement Officer Safety Act (LEOSA) permit. They also purchase ammunition to use in their firearms as well as to use at firearms ranges to stay proficient with their firearms. Many of our members also purchase accessories for their firearms that would also be subject to this tax and/or are also avid hunters which requires the purchase of additional firearms, accessories, and ammunition. This excise tax would put an undue burden on our members as it will undoubtedly be passed on to the consumer through an equivalent price increase to offset the cost to the dealer responsible for paying the tax.

We would ask that consideration be made for an amendment to HB 935 that would exempt active and retired law enforcement officers. If not possible in this bill itself, then through an income tax credit for covered purchases that would be equal to the 11% increase the officer had to pay.

On behalf of the more than 20,000 Courageous Men and Women of the Maryland Fraternal Order of Police we thank you for your support and ask for your consideration in **amending House Bill 935 - Comprehensive Community Safety Funding Act** to ensure that the effects of it do not negatively affect our membership.

Angelo L. Consoli Jr,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, FOP, Maryland State Lodge  
President, FOP Lodge 89, Prince George's County