



**SB 943**  
**Family Law – Protective Orders – Surrender of Firearms**

**UNFAVORABLE**

While the Maryland State Rifle & Pistol Association (MSRPA) supports efforts to promote public safety, we oppose SB 943.

This legislation has the potential to violate the constitutional rights of Maryland citizens through the arbitrary seizure of firearms. It would allow protective orders based on an expansive and invasive questionnaire to seek personal information about family, friends, and associates of the accused. This legislation could lead to frivolous claims potentially leading to the loss of someone's Second Amendment rights.

SB 943 also violates a person's Fourth Amendment which protects individuals from unreasonable searches. The bill would allow law enforcement to search any location based solely on probable cause and would not require naming or describing the specific place for the search. This is also a violation of Article 26 of the Maryland Declaration of Rights.

A person may be deprived of their constitutional rights only after receiving proper notice and an opportunity to be heard. This bill would violate a citizen's right to due process, an important clause in our Fourteenth Amendment.

Unfortunately, this bill will not reduce gun violence. The MSRPA supports efforts to improve domestic violence prevention and protection, but this bill does not provide these resources. SB 943 is unconstitutional and does not protect our citizens and families.

The Maryland State Rifle & Pistol Association respectfully requests an UNFAVORABLE report on SB 943.

Thank you for your consideration.

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**The MSRPA is the official National Rifle Association state organization for Maryland. The MSRPA's mission is to defend your rights in Maryland, support training in firearm safety and shooting skills through its affiliated clubs, and sponsor and sanction local competition throughout the state.**