

SB 585 Criminal Law – Exception to Armed Trespass Prohibition Retired Law Enforcement Officials

FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

The Maryland State Rifle & Pistol Association (MSRPA) supports the establishment of an exception to the prohibition against entering or trespassing on property while wearing, carrying, or transporting a firearm for certain law enforcement officials. MSRPA has been a longtime supporter of Maryland's law enforcement officers, but this legislation would establish an exemption and special category for a group of citizens which we cannot support. All Maryland citizens have equal protection under the law, and we would support this bill if amended to apply to ALL law-abiding citizens.

While retired law enforcement officers are indeed law-abiding, the same is true for permit holders. A carve-out of special privileges for a particular group of citizens is unjustified and unnecessary. The MSRPA respectfully requests that SB 585 be amended to apply to ALL law-abiding Maryland citizens.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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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.