

My name is Lamont Byrd, I am a Wear and Carry Permit holder in the State of Maryland an active member of the Onyx Sharpshooters Gun Club and the National African American Gun Association. Please be advised that my comments regarding SBO180 are my own and I am not commenting on behalf of the organizations of which I am a member. I support this bill and offer an amendment that will make gun laws that govern law abiding gun owners more equitable.

According to an article published by Newsweek on June 24th, 2024, Maryland is among the top ten states with the most restrictive gun laws in the United States.¹

To obtain the Wear and Carry Permit, I had to successfully complete a 16-hour training course that was conducted by a qualified handgun instructor. The course included the following metrics:

- Maryland state firearm laws
- Home firearm safety
- Handgun mechanisms and operation, and
- Range qualification in which I had to demonstrate gun safety and shooting proficiency with a minimum score of 70%.

I had to pay a fee of \$295 for the approved course and \$31.25 for a background check and fingerprints.

Individuals who seek to obtain a renewal permit must successfully complete an 8-hour course that is conducted by a qualified handgun instructor. This training must be received within 2-years of submitting a renewal application.² This training costs approximately \$150.

¹<https://www.newsweek.com/map-shows-states-strictest-gun-laws-1917090#:~:text=The%2010%20states%20with%20the,South%20Dakota%2C%20Kansas%20and%20Arizona.>

²<https://mdsp.maryland.gov/Organization/Pages/CriminalInvestigationBureau/LicensingDivision/Training/WearandCarryPermit.aspx>

It is clearly evident individuals who obtain the Wear and Carry Permit must commit both financial and time resources. They must demonstrate both knowledge of applicable gun laws and shooting proficiency.

It would be appropriate and reasonable to amend the proposed legislation to allow permit holders who are in good standing with Maryland law to renew their permit every five years.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal.