

Please find **UNFAVORABLE** HB1050
Family Law – Protective Orders – Surrender of Firearms

This bill creates a firearm registry by another name by requiring detailed reporting of all firearm transactions, transfers, and ownership records. While the bill may not explicitly state it creates a registry, the mass collection of gun owner data could be used to track and monitor citizens. Government should NOT be tracking of gun ownership anymore than it should be tracking who had an abortion.

Law enforcement is granted expanded authority to seize firearms in certain situations, including vague "public safety concerns." This could easily be abused to justify confiscation without clear evidence of a crime, especially when combined with Maryland's existing Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPOs) (Red Flag Laws). Examples of potential abuse:

- * A neighbor disputes with a lawful gun owner and falsely reports them as a "threat" to authorities.
- * Routine traffic stops could turn into firearm confiscations if an officer subjectively deems a legal firearm as a "potential public safety issue."
- * Firearms reported as lost or stolen could lead to legal repercussions for gun owners who fail to report an incident within the bill's required time frame.

By imposing strict reporting requirements for firearm transactions, losses, or thefts, the bill creates new legal traps for gun owners. Failure to report on time could result in fines or criminal charges, even if the gun owner acted in good faith. This disproportionately affects lower-income gun owners who may not have access to legal counsel or resources to navigate Maryland's complex gun laws.

House Bill 1050 is a dangerous expansion of government oversight over legal gun ownership. While framed as a public safety measure, its real impact is creating pathways for firearm registration, increased confiscation, and law enforcement overreach. By treating lawful gun owners as potential criminals, HB1050 erodes civil rights protections and gives too much power to the state to dictate who can own firearms and under what conditions. This bill is not about public safety—it is about opening the door to prosecutorial mischief and control over the supposedly free citizens of this State.



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