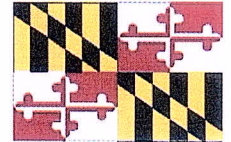




CLYDE BOATWRIGHT
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January 27, 2025

HB 171 - Public Safety – Handgun Permits – Expiration and Renewal Periods for Retired Law Enforcement Officer

Dear Chairman Clippinger and Distinguished Members of the Judiciary Committee,

The Maryland State Fraternal Order of Police **SUPPORTS House Bill 171 – Public Safety – Handgun Permits – Expiration and Renewal Periods for Retired Law Enforcement Officer**

House Bill 171 will create a new provision in the handgun permit section of Public Safety Article 5-309. This provision will extend the time limit of a handgun permit from the current 2 years from when it is issued and 3 years for each successive renewal period to a total of 5 years for the initial permit and 5 years for all renewals periods for any handgun permit that is issued to a retired Law Enforcement Officer, who retired in good standing from an Agency within the State of Maryland.

This bill would allow our Retired Members that desire to obtain a handgun permit to renew their permit at a more reasonable time given their service and training which are well above the standards that the average person seeking a gun permit would have. This extra experience, knowledge and training should be acknowledged by allowing retired Law Enforcement Officers the ability to renew at extended periods of time. This change would also have a positive impact on the unit that processes handgun permits as this longer time limit would lead to a lower volume of handgun permits that would have to be processed each year.

Some agencies within the State require active officers to obtain a handgun permit in order to work security details outside of their employment with their agency and some agencies cannot and do not have the ability to close out all discipline matters of an officer prior to their desire to retire due to the length of their disciplinary process. We would like to recommend amending this bill to allow for the inclusion of **active officers** as well as officers who retired in good standing or **not facing termination with a Law Enforcement Agency**.

A **FAVORABLE** vote on **HB 171** will send a positive message to all police officers in the State.

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 **FAVORABLE** vote on **House Bill 171 - Public Safety – Handgun Permits – Expiration and Renewal Periods for Retired Law Enforcement Officer**.

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