

MARLON AMPREY
Legislative District 40
Baltimore City

DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Economic Matters Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 315
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3520 · 301-858-3520
800-492-7122 Ext. 3520
Marlon.Amprey@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Chairman Clippinger
Vice Chair Bartlett
Maryland House Judiciary Committee
100 Taylor House Office Building
101 Taylor House Office Building
6 Bladen St
Annapolis, MD 21401

Wednesday, March 5th, 2025

**Testimony of Delegate Marlon Amprey in Support of House Bill 916 Criminal Law - Weapon Crimes
- Transporting Firearm in Checked Bag on Public Transportation**

Dear Chairman Clippinger, Vice Chair Bartlett, and Committee members

I am writing to express my support of House Bill 916 Criminal Law - Weapon Crimes - Transporting Firearms in Checked Bag on Public Transportation. This bill is not only a crucial step in enhancing public safety, but to prevent the dangerous and possibly deadly consequence of negligent gun transportation in Maryland. By establishing that firearms are securely stored and rendered inoperable during transit, HB916 will protect passengers, transportation staff, and the countless Marylanders who rely on public transportation every day from any avoidable tragedies, protecting innocent lives.

When firearms are transported negligently, whether through improper storage and security, the risks can be catastrophic. Accidental discharges, illicit access, or misuse can result in unintended harm, injury, or even death. Maryland, along with 13 other states, previously backed the District of Columbia's prohibition on carrying firearms on public transportation, demonstrating a commitment to public safety in sensitive areas. By bringing this bill to our state, it will mitigate any potential risks by requiring that firearms stored in checked bags or compartments during public transportation are properly secured, ensuring that no one can accidentally or intentionally discharge a weapon during transit.

This bill states that any bag that is stored in a storage compartment of a public transportation vehicle that is carrying a firearm must have an external safety lock attached to it, in combination with a key or lock, preventing the firearm from being discharged on buses, trains, airlines, and ferries, or any other form of public transportation. If in violation, the offender will be guilty of a misdemeanor, and in addition to different amounts in jail time or fines with each additional violation.

By introducing these clear guidelines, Maryland is taking a proactive step towards responsible gun ownership and enhancing public safety on transit. Gun negligence is avoidable, and this bill keeps not only the gun owner safe, but the passengers, transportation staff, and the public from preventable tragedies.

For these reasons, I urge a favorable report on HB916.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marlon Amprey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Marlon" and last name "Amprey" clearly distinguishable.

Delegate Marlon Amprey
40th Legislative District of Maryland