

Stephen Johnston

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HB 916
Unfavorable

I am a lifelong Maryland resident who enjoys shooting sports, hunting, fishing, and other outdoor pursuits. I write in opposition to HB 916, a bill that creates conflicting regulation of transporting a firearm in checked baggage.

TSA already regulates this

TSA already regulates the transport of firearms on airlines and requires that:

- (i) The passenger declares to the aircraft operator, either orally or in writing, before checking the baggage, that the passenger has a firearm in his or her bag and that it is unloaded;
- (ii) The firearm is unloaded;
- (iii) The firearm is carried in a hard-sided container; and
- (iv) The container in which it is carried is locked, and only the passenger retains the key or combination.

(See 49 C.F.R. §1540.111)

This bill would add more requirements in the case of hunters and sport shooters flying into Maryland on top of existing federal laws that would discourage people from flying into Maryland airports or even visiting the state in the first place. This would also create a risk of a person traveling to somewhere other than Maryland accidentally running afoul of the proposed law if there is an unexpected stop or layover in Maryland (such as for mechanical issues on a plane requiring a stop at the nearest airport).

Busses and trains already regulate this

Busses and trains already regulate the transport of firearms on their own. Take for instance Amtrak (<https://www.amtrak.com/firearms-in-checked-baggage>) or one of the numerous bus services that serves the greater Maryland area (<https://www.usconcealedcarry.com/resources/traveling-with-firearms/bus/>) typically noncompliance with the posted requirements is met with a denial of service by the transportation organization. Why add the risk of criminal penalties to inadvertent

noncompliance with the proposed law when denial of service is more than enough deterrence when traveling with an unloaded, locked, cased, firearm?

For the reasons above, I urge an unfavorable report on this bill.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Johnston", with a stylized, cursive script.

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