



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

FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

The Maryland State Rifle & Pistol Association (MSRPA) supports changing the period a permit to wear and carry a firearm is valid to FIVE years for all law-abiding citizens. MSRPA has been a longtime supporter of Maryland's law enforcement officers, but this legislation would establish an exemption and special category for a group of citizens which we cannot support. All Maryland citizens have equal protection under the law, and we would support this bill if amended to apply the five-year renewals to ALL law-abiding citizens.

Dr. John Lott has been publishing his statistical analysis on all things crime and firearm related via the Crime Prevention and Research Center since 2013. His studies have shown that the cost of concealed handgun permits can have two effects: it determines the number of people who get permits and the type of people who get them. Empirical research shows that the people who are the most likely victims of violent crime – people of limited financial means who live in high crime urban areas – are the ones who benefit the most from having concealed handgun permits. Higher costs and more frequent training periods/renewals have a disproportionate impact, thereby disenfranchising a group of people.

While retired law enforcement officers are indeed law-abiding, the same is true for permit holders. A carve-out of special privileges for a particular group of citizens is unjustified and unnecessary. The MSRPA respectfully requests that HB 171 be amended to apply the five-year renewals to ALL law-abiding Maryland citizens.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Cathy S. Wright, MSRPA VP, Legislative Affairs

cwright@msrpa.org

<https://www.msrpa.org>

919.360.0484

The MSRPA is the official National Rifle Association state organization for Maryland. The MSRPA's mission is to defend your rights in Maryland, support training in firearm safety and shooting skills through its affiliated clubs, and sponsor and sanction local competition throughout the state.