

2025 HB 171 -Handgun Permits - Expiration and Rene

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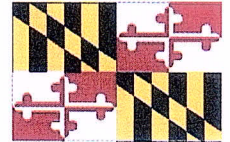
Position: FAV



CLYDE BOATWRIGHT
STATE PRESIDENT

Maryland State Lodge
FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

8302 COVE ROAD, BALTIMORE, MD 21222



KENNY SCHUBERT
SECRETARY

EARL KRATSCH
TREASURER

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.

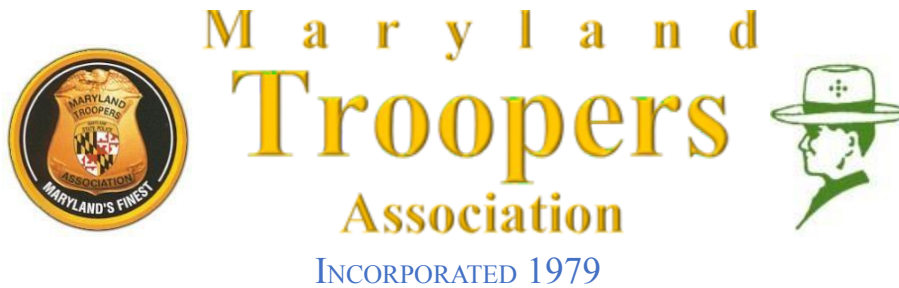
On behalf of the more than 20,000 Courageous Men and Women of the Maryland Fraternal Order of Police we thank you for your support and ask for your **FAVORABLE** vote on **House Bill 171 - Public Safety – Handgun Permits – Expiration and Renewal Periods for Retired Law Enforcement Officer**.

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

HB0171_FAV_MDTroopersAssociation.pdf

Uploaded by: Christopher Dews

Position: FAV



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 180 / HOUSE BILL 171:

Public Safety - Handgun Permits - Expiration and Renewal Periods for Retired Law Enforcement Officers

TO: Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee and House Judiciary Committee

FROM: The Maryland Trooper's Association

DATE: January 29th, 2025

The Maryland Trooper's Association supports Senate Bill 180 / House Bill 171, which creates alternative expiration and renewal periods for a handgun permit for retired law enforcement officers.

Troopers devote their lives to serving the people of Maryland, and this legislation creates a more straightforward process for handgun renewal. Not only does it eliminate a burden on those who continue to protect our state, but it also removes a burden on the licensing department. Our retired police in good standing appreciate the trust of Marylanders and the consideration for this renewal process to be extended to every 5 years. Several other states follow the 5-year expiration process, and Maryland is catching up to that standard. We strongly support Senate Bill 180 / House Bill 171 and urge a favorable report.

Brian Blubaugh
President
Maryland Troopers Association

Member of National Troopers Coalition

1300 REISTERSTOWN ROAD, PIKESVILLE, MARYLAND 21208 (410) 653-3885 1-800-TROOPER

E-mail: info@mdtroopers.org

djm HB 171 FINAL written testimony 12625.pdf

Uploaded by: Donald McCord

Position: FAV

House Bill 171

Retired Law Enforcement Officers Concealed Carry Permit

January 29, 2025

Mr. Chairman and distinguished committee members. I am retired Lieutenant Donald McCord of the Maryland State Police. I am representing the Maryland State Police Alumni Association as well as the Maryland Troopers Association. The Maryland State Police Alumni Association is comprised of approximately 1,500 retired Maryland State Troopers, with the Maryland Troopers Association be composed of approximately 2,700 sworn and retired State Troopers. My law enforcement career began in 1979 and I retired from the Maryland State Police after being injured in the line of duty in 1999. I am writing on behalf of our Associations in support of House Bill 171 extending the renewal time for a Maryland Handgun permit from three (3) years to (5) years for retired law enforcement officers (LEO).

To be issued a handgun permit as a retired LEO, one must retire in good standing, meaning, no adverse disciplinary/administrative/criminal charges or criminal record. Upon retirement, the retiree receives a retirement badge and identification card to confirm their service affiliation with a particular law enforcement agency. These individuals are further vetted through a rigorous background investigation, conducted by the Maryland State Police, confirming not only do they meet the legal standards of eligibility for a Handgun Permit but further as to their status as a retired LEO in good standing. According to statistics published by the Maryland State Police, over 85,000 concealed carry permits applications were received in 2023 alone (2024 numbers are not yet available).

In addition to keeping and maintaining the minimum standards required for a Maryland Handgun Permit, many of these retirees go on to achieve and maintain an additional level of proficiency. This is accomplished by applying for a national conceal carry permit under the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act (LEOSA) of 2004. This level of certification requires the retired law enforcement officer to

meet the additional demands of an active duty LEO and shoot two (2) separate qualification courses (daylight and night fire) on an annual basis. This in essence forces the retiree to maintain the same basic level of handgun training and proficiency as an active duty LEO. It should be mentioned LEOSA may not be available to all retired LEO's based on their Agency's rules and regulations. In those instances, the retiree relies on the Maryland Handgun Permit to carry their weapon for self protection.

As noted above, the Maryland State Police Licensing Division processes and investigates, Handgun Permits submitted by the general public. According to statistics published by the Maryland State Police, over 85,000 Handgun Permit applications were received in 2023 alone (2024 numbers are not yet available). Retired LEO's make up a relatively small portion of these permits. By expanding the renewal time from 3 years to 5 years for retired LEO's, it reduces the burden on the Maryland State Police, Licensing Division of performing exhaustive, time consuming, follow up investigations on highly trained law enforcement officers who technically retired from active service but continue to serve their communities in various capacities with honor and distinction, as law abiding citizens.

There is a fiscal impact in regards to Maryland's Handgun Permits. The Maryland State Police alone, are charged by law, with conducting Handgun Permit investigations. With more than 85,000 applications a year, this presents a daunting task. A Trooper's time in man hours, basic/overtime salaries and fuel costs are just some of the expenses to be considered. The fee of a Handgun Permit is \$125.00 for an initial application, \$75.00 for renewal. So, in essence, expanding the renewal time from 3 years to 5 years would provide a positive fiscal return for the Maryland State Police and the State of Maryland, by reducing the needless expenditure of undue man hours and salaries for these investigations of known law-abiding individuals. Stated a little differently, given the volume of Handgun Permit applications processed, many of these investigations are conducted on an overtime basis to avoid taking time away from more pressing and time sensitive criminal investigations. This puts an even greater demand on overburdened police resources and budgets to investigate known, highly trained

individuals, who have served this State and their community with honor and distinction.

In addition to the points mentioned above, this Bill, if passed, would bring Maryland in line with our neighboring states of Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia with 5 year renewals of Handgun Permits.

As an active duty or retired law enforcement officer, we are held to a higher standard by the community at large, with much greater expectations of conduct and character, especially in times of trouble. Those of us who have chosen to pursue the path of a law enforcement officer, embrace these expectations and live their lives accordingly through a life of continued service to our communities and our fellow law enforcement officers. Given the dedicated years of service and sacrifice to the State of Maryland and our communities, we would appreciate your consideration in extending the renewal time for our Handgun Permits from 3 years to at least 5 years.

Thank you.

Lt (Ret) Donald J McCord

410-925-8844

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Uploaded by: Sarah Mastronardi

Position: FAV

Mr. Chairman, Honorable Representatives, and interested attendees

I am Retired First Sgt. Jeannie Mastronardi of the Maryland State Police and President of the Alumni Association. With over 30 years of service and experience with the department, with 5 years working in the Licensing Division, I am asking for your positive consideration for HB 171 Handgun Permits.

Currently a Maryland Handgun Permit expires in 2 years for the initial permit, then 3 years for subsequent permits. With the renewal process, a full investigation is completed on every applicant whether initial or renewal. These investigations are completed by members of the Maryland State Police Licensing Division. I want to discuss financial and common sense reasons for increasing the renewal process from 3 to 5 years.

-Financial Reduction

Paperwork reduction, decrease in overtime expenditures by employees assigned to the MSP, which would then

Re-direct employees to focus on new applicants, running criminal histories, follow up on dis-approvals and other duties as directed by the Commander of the Unit

Common sense

Those retired officers that currently have permits are your neighbor next door. They tend to be the one that is part of the neighborhood watch, observe the suspicious car on your street, perform duties such as church security, even transporting the offering after the church service to the bank

Chaperone for an after school event

Volunteer security at local carnivals, fairs, or parades

Retired police officers are often involved in various nonprofit activities where they continue to give back to the community they once served

We can document numerous occasions where retired law enforcement come to the aid of our patrol officer on the street

I am not here for a good conduct medal, but I respectfully ask for your positive recommendation to help progress this legislation forward.

Respectfully and Thank you all for your service to our citizens.

Jeannie Mastronardi

President

Maryland State Police Alumni Association

[MSPAA Website](#)

srmastronardi@gmail.com

443-754-0160

HB 171 Handgun Permits.pdf

Uploaded by: Cathy Wright

Position: FWA



**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.

HB0171.pdf

Uploaded by: Galen Muhammad

Position: FWA

HB0171

My name is Galen Muhammad and I am the Maryland State Director of the United 2A Collective.

I stand in support of this bill with a friendly amendment. That friendly amendment is to extend this bill to ***all*** Maryland concealed carry permit holders. This point of view wasn't even heard by the entire Senate Judiciary Committee because of the rejection of this friendly amendment and extreme limit of witnesses allowed.

It is unfortunate that Senator West would reject our support for his bill (**SB0180**) because it included all Maryland concealed carry permit holders.

On Jan. 16, Sen. West gave testimony that the natural increase in concealed carry permit applications was costly, due to the Bruen Decision. If this is truly a costly process, then extending all validation periods of ***all*** Maryland concealed carry permits would greatly reduce these costs that the senator mentioned in his testimony.

Sen. West also mentioned the training and good standing the retired law enforcement officers have. Most police departments require their officers to qualify with their handgun in a live fire qualification only once or twice a year. Testimony heard for Sen. West's bill also pointed out that some departments could not afford to send their officers to the gun range. As civilian firearms owners and, particularly as firearms instructors, many of us go to the range to shoot 3 – 4 times a month or more and happily absorb that cost. Testimony heard during the 2022 discussion of Senate Bill 1 demonstrated how most frequently training civilians are more accurate at shooting than most police officers. It was a police officer who gave that testimony and mentioned the Indianapolis mall shooting and how a 22 year old concealed carry permit holder saved more lives by neutralizing the active threat from 40 yards away. I know that there **are** statistically 10% of police officers who make it a point to put in that extra time and expense on the range. But many civilian handgun owners are as well trained with their handguns as the police.

There is no **reason** to **not** include **all** concealed carry permit holders with this validation extension period for LEOs. Last year, this legislature voted to **increase** the fees **and** frequency of renewal for the Constitutional right to bear arms while *reducing* the validation period. It would also be right and more appropriate to **increase** the validity period to 5 years *instead* of its currently decreased 2 years.

I ask that this bill, with the **above** suggested friendly amendment, receive a favorable review.

HB0171_Testimony_2A_Maryland.pdf

Uploaded by: John Josselyn

Position: FWA



2A Maryland

PO Box 8922 • Elkridge, MD 21075
www.2AMaryland.org • 2A@2AMaryland.org
410-733-4848

House Bill 0171

Public Safety – Handgun Permits – Expiration and Renewal Periods for Retired Law Enforcement Officer FAVORABLE with AMENDMENTS

We strongly support changing the period a permit to wear and carry a firearm is valid to 5 years. In view of the Bruen decision, the current 2-year period for a first permit and 3 years for renewals has no basis in logic and is out of step with the policies of most other states where a 5-year permit is the norm.

While we have great respect and admiration for our law enforcement officers, creating another “carve out” on any issue is something we cannot support. This nation was founded upon the concept that all citizens are created equal and have equal protection and equal rights under the law. Further, the creation of “separate classes” of permits runs a close parallel to the “good and substantial” concept which the United States Supreme Court ruled as unconstitutional in the 2022 Bruen decision.

We recommend avoiding a court challenge by simply amending House Bill 0171 by removing the existing bill language and revising Public Safety Article §5-309 (b) as follows:

(a) ~~Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, a~~ A permit expires on the last day of the holder’s birth month following ~~2~~ 5 years after the date the permit is issued.

(b) Subject to subsection (c) of this section, a permit may be renewed for successive periods of ~~3~~ 5 years each if, at the time of an application for renewal, the applicant possesses the qualifications for the issuance of a permit and pays the renewal fee stated in this subtitle.

(c) A person who applies for a renewal of a permit is not required to be fingerprinted unless the Secretary requires a set of the person’s fingerprints to resolve a question of the person’s identity.

~~(d) The Secretary may establish an alternative expiration date for a permit to coincide with the expiration of a license, certification, or commission for:~~

~~(1) a private detective under Title 13 of the Business Occupations and Professions Article;~~

~~(2) a security guard under Title 19 of the Business Occupations and Professions Article; or~~

~~(3) a special police officer under § 3-306 of this article.~~

John H. Josselyn
2A Maryland
01/29/2025

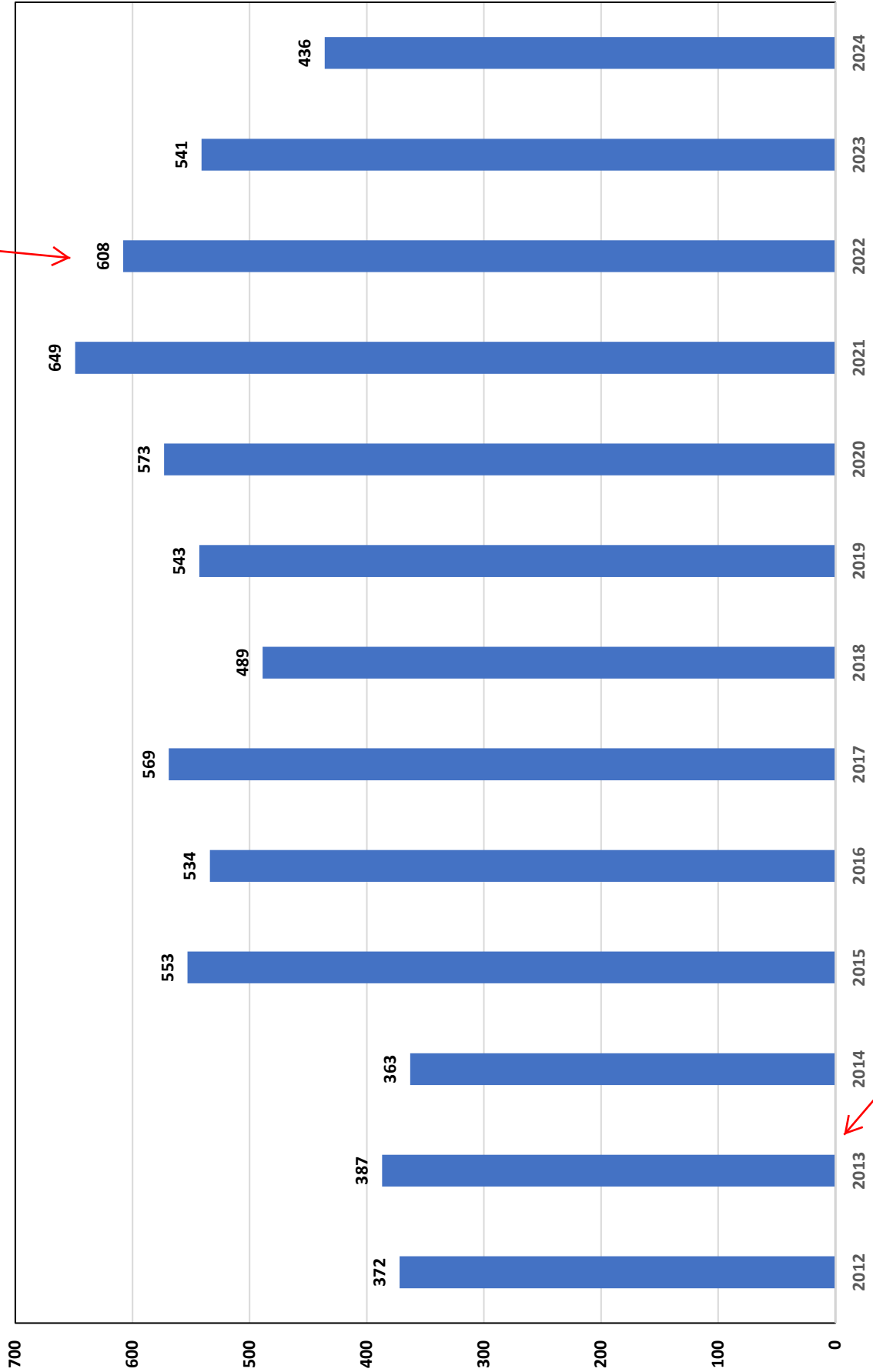
2A Maryland

Data Source: 2012-2021 MD UCR

Data Source: 2022-2024 NIBRS

US Supreme Court
decision in Bruen
on carry permits.

Homicide Trends in Maryland 2012-2024



Firearms Safety Act of 2013 passed

2A Maryland - Maryland Gun Laws 1988-2024

Session	Bill Number	Bill Title
1988	HB1131	Handguns - Prohibition of Manufacture and Sale (Saturday Night Special Ban)
1989	SB0531	Firearms - Assault Weapons
1992	SB0043	Firearms - Access by Minors
1993	SB0330	Gun Shows - Sale, Trade or Transfer of Regulated Firearms
1994	HB0595?	Storehouse Breaking - Penalty
1994	SB0619	Assault Pistol Ban
1996	HB0297	Maryland Gun Violence Act of 1996
1996	HB1254	Education - Expulsion for Bringing a Firearm onto School Property
1999	HB0907	School Safety Act of 1999
2000	SB0211	Responsible Gun Safety Act of 2000
2001	HB0305	Bulletproof Body Armor - Prohibitions
2002	HB1272	Criminal Justice Information System - Criminal History Records Check
2009	HB0296	Family Law - Protective Orders - Surrender of Firearms
2009	HB0302	Family Law - Temporary Protective Orders - Surrender of Firearms
2011	HB0241	Criminal Law - Restrictions Against Use and Possession of Firearms
2011	HB0519	Firearms - Violation of Specified Prohibitions - Ammunition and Penalty
2012	HB0209	Public Safety - Possession of Firearms - Crimes Committed in Other States
2012	HB0618	Task Force to Study Access of Individuals with Mental Illness to Regulated Firearms
2013	SB0281	Firearms Safety Act of 2013
2018	HB1029	Criminal Law - Wearing, Carrying or Transporting Loaded Handgun - Subsequent Offender
2018	HB1302	Public Safety - Extreme Risk Protective Orders
2018	HB1646	Criminal Procedure - Firearms Transfer
2018	SB0707	Criminal Law - Firearm Crimes - Rapid Fire Trigger Activators
2019	SB0346	Public Safety - Regulated Firearms - Prohibition of Loans
2020	HB1629	Office of the Attorney General - Firearm Crime, Injuries, Fatalities, and Crime Firearms - Study
2021	HB1186	Office of the Attorney General - Firearm Crime, Injuries, Fatalities, and Crime Firearms - Study Extension
2022	SB0387	Public Safety - Untraceable Firearms
2022	SB0861	Crimes - Firearms and Inmates - Enforcement, Procedures, and Reporting
2022	HB1021	Public Safety - Licensed Firearms Dealers - Security Requirements
2023	SB0001	Criminal Law - Wearing, Carrying, or Transporting Firearms - Restrictions (Gun Safety Act of 2023)
2023	SB0858	Firearm Safety - Storage Requirements and Youth Suicide Prevention (Jaelynn's Law)
2023	HB0824	Public Safety - Regulated Firearms - Possession and Permits to Carry, Wear, and Transport a Handgun
2024	HB0810	Criminal Law - Rapid-Fire Activator - Switch/Auto-Sear
2024	HB0947	Civil Actions - Public Nuisances - Firearm Industry Members (Gun Industry Accountability Act of 2024)

Article - Public Safety

[\[Previous\]](#)[\[Next\]](#)

§5–304.

(a) An application for a permit shall be made under oath.

(b) (1) Subject to subsections (c) and (d) of this section, the Secretary may charge a nonrefundable fee payable when an application is filed for a permit.

(2) The fee may not exceed:


(i) \$125 for an initial application;

(ii) \$75 for a renewal or subsequent application; and


(iii) \$20 for a duplicate or modified permit.

(3) The fees under this subsection are in addition to the fees authorized under § 5–305 of this subtitle.

(c) The Secretary may reduce the fee under subsection (b) of this section accordingly for a permit that is granted for one day only and at one place only.

 (d) The Secretary may not charge a fee under subsection (b) of this section to:

(1) a State, county, or municipal public safety employee who is required to carry, wear, or transport a handgun as a condition of governmental employment; or

 (2) a retired law enforcement officer of the State or a county or municipal corporation of the State.

(e) The applicant shall pay a fee under this section by an electronic check, a credit card, or a method of online payment approved by the Secretary.

[\[Previous\]](#)[\[Next\]](#)

MSI Testimony on SB 180 and HB 171 retired leos.pd

Uploaded by: Mark Pennak

Position: FWA



January 16, 2025

WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF MARK W. PENNAK, PRESIDENT, MSI, IN SUPPORT OF SB 180 and HB 171 *WITH AMENDMENTS*

I am the President of Maryland Shall Issue (“MSI”). Maryland Shall Issue is a Section 501(c)(4), all-volunteer, non-partisan organization dedicated to the preservation and advancement of gun owners’ rights in Maryland. It seeks to educate the community about the right of self-protection, the safe handling of firearms, and the responsibility that goes with carrying a firearm in public. I am also an attorney and an active member of the Bar of Maryland and of the Bar of the District of Columbia. I recently retired from the United States Department of Justice, where I practiced law for 33 years in the Courts of Appeals of the United States and in the Supreme Court of the United States. I am an expert in Maryland firearms law, federal firearms law and the law of self-defense. I am also a Maryland State Police certified handgun instructor for the Maryland Wear and Carry Permit and the Maryland Handgun Qualification License (“HQL”) and a certified NRA instructor in rifle, pistol, personal protection in the home, personal protection outside the home and in muzzle loader. I appear today as President of MSI in SUPPORT of SB 180 and the cross-file, HB 171, **WITH AMENDMENTS**.

The Bill:

Current Maryland law provides that wear and carry permits for the possession and transport of a handgun outside the home may be issued for an initial term of 2 years and that permit may thereafter be renewed for a 3-year term. See MD Code, Public Safety, § 5-309(a),(b). This bill would create a 5-year term for expiration of the carry permit as limited to “a retired law enforcement officer who retired in good standing from service with a law enforcement agency of the state or a county or municipal corporation of the state.” For the reasons set forth below, we respectfully suggest that while the 5-year term for permits is reasonable, retired law enforcement officers are not entitled to special consideration for these purposes. Accordingly, the Bill should be amended to apply a 5-year term for all permit holders, not merely for retired officers.

Discussion:

Stated simply, Maryland’s 2-year term for initial permits and the 3-year term for renewal inappropriately inflicts unwarranted costs on both permit holders and on the Maryland State Police, the agency charged with issuance of permits under MD Code, Public Safety, § 5-306. In particular, the scarce resources of the Maryland State Police can be put to better use, especially where, as now, the State is experiencing a budget shortfall.

Maryland’s limited expiration terms are anomalous. First, **29 States** are now “constitutional carry” jurisdictions meaning that no permit is required for carry by otherwise law-abiding, non-disqualified adults in that State. <https://bit.ly/3S2nbde>. By definition, the right to carry in these States is not subject to **any** time limit. Such “constitutional carry” states include

states with small populations, like New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine, as well as states more heavily populated, such as Missouri, Florida, Texas, and Ohio. *Id.* Maryland's neighbors, Pennsylvania, and Virginia, allow **open** carry **without** a permit and issue **concealed** carry permits for those who wish to carry concealed. Those concealed carry permits are good for five years. Virginia Code, § 18.2-308.02; Pennsylvania Code § 1609(f). Similarly, in Delaware, open carry is allowed without a permit. The initial permit for concealed carry is good for 3 years and renewals are good for 5 years. Del. Code Ann. tit. 11, § 1441(a)(5).

Florida carry permits are good for **seven** years, Florida Statutes § 790.06, and such permits are particularly useful for those persons who wish to obtain the reciprocity widely accorded Florida's permit by other States. <https://bit.ly/4gIMkVj>. In contrast, Maryland does not recognize or accord reciprocity to any permit issued by any other State. Maryland will be forced to change that restriction under the Supremacy Clause of the Constitution, U.S. Const. Art. VI, cl. 2, if Congress imposes nationwide reciprocity. See <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/38>. Such legislation has strong support in the new Congress. See, e.g., <https://www.tillis.senate.gov/2025/1/tillis-colleagues-introduce-concealed-carry-reciprocity-bill>. Such legislation has also been endorsed by President-elect Trump. <https://www.newsnationnow.com/politics/trump-concealed-carry-reciprocity-law/>. It would be obviously senseless to require Marylanders to renew permits after two or three years if Maryland must accord full faith and credit to Florida permits which are good for seven years or to Virginia and Pennsylvania permits which are good for five years.

Second, even in States that still require carry permits for all types of carry, very few (e.g., New Jersey and California) impose a 2-year expiration period for permits. Michigan, for example, has a four-year expiration period for initial issuance and a 5-year term for renewals. Michigan Statutes, § Section 28.425l. Illinois (hardly a gun-friendly State), issues renewals for a five-year period. 430 ILCS 66/50. A carry permit is good for 6 years in Massachusetts, see Mass. Gen. Laws ch. 140, §§ 131(i), and for 5 years in Connecticut, see Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 29-30(b). Not even New York uses a two-year period for initial permits or a 3-year period for renewals. Rather, New York law provides that a carry permit is valid for “five years after the date of issuance” for the City of New York, and for the counties of Nassau, Suffolk, and Westchester. NY Penal Code Art. 400.00(10)(a). Elsewhere in the State of New York, “any license to carry or possess a pistol or revolver, issued at any time pursuant to this section or prior to the first day of July, nineteen hundred sixty-three and not previously revoked or cancelled, **shall be in force and effect until revoked as herein provided.**” *Id.* Emphasis added. New York merely requires that the license be “recertified to the division of the state police every five years” and revokes any permit not recertified. *Id.* § 400.00(10)(b). Recertification does not require proof of training. *Id.*

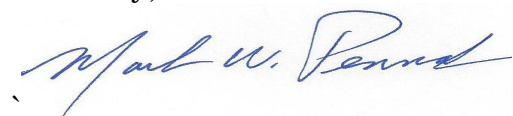
Third, there is simply no reason to require frequent renewals. Such short renewals are not necessary to ensure continual qualification for the permit as Maryland participates in the FBI's “Rap Back” system under which the State Police will receive prompt notification of an arrest of any permit holder anywhere in the United States. <https://www.dpscs.state.md.us/publicservs/bgchecks.shtml>. The State Police may immediately revoke the permit held by any person who is no longer qualified to hold the permit. MD Code, Public Safety, § 5-310. That disqualification includes, for example, “any person who is under indictment for a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term

exceeding one year,” 18 U.S.C. § 922(n), or has been convicted of any “felony or misdemeanor for which a sentence of imprisonment for more than 1 year has been imposed,” MD Code, Public Safety, § 5-306(a)(2), or is on “supervised probation for a “conviction of a crime punishable by imprisonment for 1 year or more” or for “violating a protective order” issued under the Family Law article of the Maryland code. *Id.* at §5-306(a)(4). In short, there is simply no reason for Maryland to continue to impose costly renewals on permit holders and on the Maryland State Police. Certainly, the State Police can put those resources to better use.

Finally, special treatment for retired law enforcement officers is unwarranted as such individuals already enjoy a privileged position under LEOSA, 18 U.S.C. § 926C. That provision of federal law provides that “[n]otwithstanding any other provision of the law of any State or any political subdivision thereof, an individual who is a qualified retired law enforcement officer and who is carrying the identification required by subsection (d) may carry a concealed firearm that has been shipped or transported in interstate or foreign commerce.” (Emphasis added). Thus, under LEOSA, otherwise qualified retired law enforcement officers need not obtain a State-issued permit **at all** to carry in Maryland. Indeed, because LEOSA expressly preempts State law, these individuals may disregard limitations otherwise imposed on permit holders by State law, subject only to the exceptions imposed by LEOSA itself. See 18 U.S.C. 926C(b). Given LEOSA, there is no reason to carve out retired officers for special treatment. While retired officers are undoubtedly law-abiding, the same is overwhelmingly true for permit holders, nationwide. See John Lott, Carlisle E. Moody, and Rujun Wang, *Concealed Carry Permit Holders Across the United States: 2024*, at 42-43 (2024) (“it is impossible to think of any other group in the US that is anywhere near as law-abiding,” noting further that “concealed carry permit holders are even more law-abiding than police”) (available at <https://bit.ly/3Pyv8G0>).

We urge a favorable report on this bill, if it is amended to include all permit holders.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Mark W. Pennak".

Mark W. Pennak
President, Maryland Shall Issue, Inc.
mpennak@marylandshallissue.org

2025 HB171 Support with Ammendments Letter - Hamil

Uploaded by: Rebecca Hamilton

Position: FWA

Desk of: Rebecca Hamilton
Elkton, MD 21921
rebeccahamiltoncc@gmail.com

Dear Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in **SUPPORT with Ammendments** to HB171.

Please update this legislation to include ALL citizens of Maryland.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rebecca Hamilton', with a stylized, cursive script.

Rebecca Hamilton
Cecil County Council, District 2

hb0171_kasuba_FWA.pdf

Uploaded by: Thomas Kasuba

Position: FWA

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

While this bill commendably simplifies the handgun permit renewal process for retired law enforcement officers, I believe it can be made more equitable and supportive of all the citizens of Maryland, not just an elite few.

The bill limits extended renewal periods and fee exemptions to retired law enforcement officers, excluding other citizens with comparable training and experience. It risks creating perceptions of preferential treatment by not extending similar benefits to civilians who exercise their right to bear arms responsibly. I therefore request these following amendments.

1. Expand eligibility to ALL citizens who have already demonstrated firearms proficiency and safety.
2. Uniform Renewal Periods: Allow all permit holders to benefit from the five-year renewal period to promote fairness, equity and paperwork processing efficiency.

These adjustments would not only enhance the fairness and inclusivity of HB171 but also reaffirm Maryland's commitment to respecting and protecting the basic human rights for all citizens.



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January 13, 2025

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Position: UNF



Testimony in Opposition of
Public Safety - Handgun Permits - Expiration and Renewal Periods for
Retired Law Enforcement Officer
SB 180/HB 171
Executive Director Karen Herren
Marylanders to Prevent Gun Violence

January 27, 2025

Dear Chair Clippinger, Vice-Chair Bartlett, and distinguished members of the committee,

Marylanders to Prevent Gun Violence (MPGV) is a statewide organization dedicated to reducing gun deaths and injuries in Maryland. We urge the committee for an **UNFAVORABLE report on House Bill 171**.

Law enforcement is a vital component of any state's public safety plan, and we acknowledge the sacrifices made by individuals pursuing a career in law enforcement. However, it is crucial to recognize that law enforcement officers are not inherently a class that must be exempt from regular scrutiny. MPGV opposes any efforts to extend the time between renewal periods for permits for anyone. This body should maintain the current renewal period of 3 years to ensure that individuals failing to uphold required standards are identified and removed from the system. Retired law enforcement officers should not be granted immunity from the need to maintain these standards.

MPGV urges the committee to vote **UNFAVORABLY on SB HB 171**. We believe that preserving the current renewal period is vital for upholding the standards necessary for responsible firearm ownership.