

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Institute for Legislative Action

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NRA

February 3, 2025

Chairman and members of the committee,

My name is John Weber and I represent the National Rifle Association and our members in Maryland. The NRA is opposed to HB 937. This bill intends to levy an excise tax at a rate of 12% upon all transactions involving firearms, firearm accessories, and ammunition.

Firearms and ammunition are already subject to an 11% federal excise tax through Pitman Robertson, along with a variety of other state and local taxes and fees. California is the only other state to enact similar legislation. When the bill passed in California, Gov. Newsom labeled it a "sin" tax and showed the Second Amendment community his true thoughts and intentions towards law abiding gun owners.

This tax will disproportionately impact those who follow the law. Criminals operate in black markets where goods are untaxed. Meanwhile, the honest citizen faces another barrier to legal firearm ownership.

Excise taxes on firearms do not just affect manufacturers and retailers, they hit law-abiding citizens right. These taxes elevate the cost of firearms, potentially pricing out those who wish to legally own a gun for self-defense, sport, or as collectors. This bill will also tax ammunition and accessories. Items that law-abiding citizens use to practice with, and store, their firearms.

This legislation is not about generating revenue or public safety, it's about limiting access to a fundamental right. This tax should be seen as nothing more than an attack on the Second Amendment and those who exercise their rights under it.

Thank you,

NRA-ILA State Director