

Michael Schuster  
Regarding HB0937  
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Greetings. My name is Michael Schuster, a firearms instructor, expert, and criminal justice graduate majoring in Intelligence Analysis and Collection. I strongly oppose the proposed legislation, HB0387, for the following reasons.

Firstly, the attempt to levy an increased sales tax is a thinly veiled attempt to bypass the rulings in *Murdock v. Pennsylvania* (319 U.S. 105) and *Shuttlesworth v. Alabama* (373 U.S. 262), both of which guarantee that no tax shall be imposed on a liberty. Fresh off the denial of Certiorari at SCOTUS for *MSI v. Moore*, Maryland legislators once again feel imbued with unconstitutional power to further infringe on law-abiding citizens' capacity to exercise their 2nd Amendment rights in the state of Maryland. Make no mistake; ANY increase in cost to afford the exercise of a right is an infringement on said right. Levying a fee to vote would equally be unconstitutional. As such, this proposed legislation is already made unconstitutional and would be immediately challenged upon passage at an additional cost to taxpayers.

Rather than pass burdens to criminals convicted of violent crimes, Delegates Young and Mireku—North have decided to hedge their legislative immunity to again target law-abiding firearm owners with penalties simply for desiring to exercise a Constitutionally protected right.

As I testified for HB0387, a similarly designed unconstitutional piece of proposed legislation, this is not going to affect crime rates, nor will it mitigate violent crime by people who are already acquiring their firearms illegally. It does nothing to stop straw purchases, nothing to prevent firearms from being brought into schools, and nothing to lower recidivism from repeat offenders. Doubling the sales tax on firearms and firearm accessories only penalizes those who want to do things the legal way, and in many cases, will simply drive Marylanders to go purchase the goods they want out of state.

Either way, this poor attempt at making firearms-related businesses more difficult to operate simply highlights the disdain these legislators have for law-abiding citizens, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment, and their ignorance of firearms, criminal statistics, and the will of the People.