

Please find **UNFAVORABLE** HB 937  
Sales and Use Tax – Firearms, Firearm Accessories, and Ammunition – Rate Alteration

This bill unfairly targets firearms related items while leaving other comparable consumer goods unaffected. It is a transparent attempt to financially burden and discourage the exercise of basic human rights through taxation. If the purpose of this bill is to increase revenue for the state, why are firearms and ammunition the only items being taxed at a higher rate? Many products in Maryland could be taxed more under the same justification:

- \* Sporting goods equipment: Fishing rods, bows, and other hunting tools remain taxed at 6%, yet only firearms are being targeted.
- \* Alcohol and Tobacco: These products contribute to public health concerns, yet their sales tax is not being doubled in this bill.
- \* Automobiles: Vehicle-related deaths far exceed firearm-related deaths annually, yet cars and auto parts remain at the standard tax rate.
- \* Prescription Drugs and Medical Supplies: Many of these items have direct public health risks, but they are not subject to a doubling of taxation.

And why body armor? Body armor is an essential protective item for security professionals and civilians in high-crime areas so why would it be taxed, rather than subsidized, given its purely defensive nature.

House Bill 937 is a misguided and discriminatory piece of legislation that unfairly targets firearm owners while failing to apply similar taxation increases to other goods. It restricts access to firearms for self-defense and sport, disproportionately impacting working-class citizens, and does nothing to enhance public safety.



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