



HB 387 – Comprehensive Community Safety Funding Act

UNFAVORABLE

The Maryland State Rifle & Pistol Association (MSRPA) opposes HB 387 the Comprehensive Community Safety Funding Act. Maryland's sales tax is 6% and this bill would impose an ***additional*** tax – an 11% excise tax – on the sale of firearms.

We don't tax any other constitutional rights. This bill will infringe on law-abiding citizens' rights and abilities to self-defense. Of note is California's 11% excise tax on firearms which has already been challenged in federal court, and now members of Congress are taking aim at similar laws and proposals introduced in other states. Maryland leaders must be tired of passing laws only to see them end up in the courts at our citizens' expense.

Are the bill sponsors trying to make it too expensive for citizens to buy arms? This could be perceived as Maryland's new imposition of a "sin tax" on firearms, equating a core constitutional freedom with gambling and drug use. You are essentially raising the price of self-defense out of reach for many Marylanders.

Firearm sales have a significant impact on Maryland's economy, creating well-paying jobs in Maryland, and paying significant amounts in taxes to the state and federal governments. And there is a broader economic impact of firearm sales throughout our economy which generates business for firms seemingly unrelated to firearms such as banking, retail, metal working, printing, yet all dependent on the firearms industry for their livelihoods.

This punitive tax will have a detrimental economic impact on Maryland's economy and jobs. With the loss of jobs, this bill will not help solve the state's budget deficit, nor will it be able to assist with additional funding for trauma centers, trauma physicians, and violence prevention programs, let alone cover the administrative costs.

The MSRPA respectfully requests an UNFAVORABLE report on SB 387.

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