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Maryland State Lodge FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

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KENNY SCHUBERT
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HB 937 – Sales and Use Tax – Firearms, Firearm Accessories, and Ammunition – Rate Alteration

Dear Chair Atterbeary and Distinguished Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

The Maryland State Fraternal Order of Police **OPPOSES as written** - House Bill 937 - **Sales and Use Tax – Firearms, Firearm Accessories, and Ammunition – Rate Alteration** as it will have a negative financial impact on our members.

House Bill 937 will double the current tax rate for Firearms, Firearm Accessories, and Ammunition by setting a new 12% tax rate. In its current form there are no exceptions listed for this new rate. The FOP would like to seek an amendment to exempt our members from this tax.

Both Active and Retired Law Enforcement Officers in this State purchase and carry firearms and the ammunition that goes with them for their off duty and/or personal use. While active officers are issued service firearms and the required ammunition for them, there is a need to purchase ammunition throughout the year for those that utilize a firearms range to remain proficient with their firearms. Many also purchase smaller or different firearms than their service firearm to carry off duty. Retired Officers purchase firearms that they legally carry with a Maryland State handgun permit or a Law Enforcement Officer Safety Act (LEOSA) permit. They also purchase ammunition to use in their firearms as well as to use at firearms ranges to stay proficient with their firearms. Many of our members also purchase accessories for their firearms that would also be subject to this tax and/or are also avid hunters which requires the purchase of additional firearms, accessories, and ammunition. This tax increase would put an undue burden on our members.

We ask that consideration be made for an amendment to **HB 937** that would exempt all active and retired law enforcement officers from any Law Enforcement Agency that displays proper identification that clearly identifies them as an active or retired member of any Law Enforcement Agency at the time of their purchase from this tax.

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 consideration in **amending House Bill 937 - Sales and Use Tax – Firearms, Firearm Accessories, and Ammunition – Rate Alteration** to ensure that the effects of it do not negatively affect our membership. Without this amendment we stand **OPPOSED** to **HB 937**.

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