

Members of the Ways and means, 2025

I am writing to request an "UNFAVORABLE VOTE" to HB387, HB 397

Imposing another tax on law abiding citizens, standing in the way of their Constitutionally protected right to bear arms as per the US constitution and State constitution is harsh and cruel.

The authors of this bill are implementing a fee that could otherwise be used to purchase this fundamental and constitutional right. The authors will say that this bill is aimed at the dealers and manufacturers. That may be the spin or the pitch they are making, but who do you think ultimately assumes this fee? The consumer will.

Maryland already has a monopoly on purchasing firearms now. Example would be that I can only purchase a "pistol" in Maryland, therefore taking the competition out of the game. This move allows for higher prices for the consumer. By design.

With the states short fall in budget, the governor imposing more fees on Marylanders, higher prices at the store and with the power companies. We do not need this additional fee. Fiscal responsibility and operating within our means are the best practice.

This bill also will hurt the manufactures in Maryland. The manufacturers that supply firearms to law enforcement agencies locally and nationally. These companies employ people, the gun shops that sell these items employ people. This will certainly cause a loss in revenue that will lead to layoffs. Thus making the state less business friendly.

This bill does not help Maryland. It certainly hurts them. Stop punishing the pro-gun law abiding citizens with more useless and baseless legislation that will not benefit the state financially, her safety and well-being. If you join this bill with HB 397, both bills would impose 24 percent tax on anything firearms. This is cruel and unusual punishment for law abiding citizens.

Vote no to HB 387, HB 397

No more fees, No more taxes.

Thank you for your time.

Bryan Cook

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Wicomico County Maryland.