



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HB 250: Income Tax - Credit for Firearm Safety Devices

Ways and Means Committee

Thursday, January 30, 2025 - 1:00 PM

Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins, and Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Maryland has the 9th highest gun homicide rate in the country¹. Incentivizing the safe storage of firearms in Maryland is a critical step in promoting responsible gun ownership and preventing avoidable firearm tragedies. Targeted research conducted by Giffords found there would be a third fewer youth gun suicides and unintentional gun deaths if all homes safely stored their firearms². By preventing careless usage and warding off unintended consequences, the use of these devices saves lives and encourages cautious firearm customs.

HB 250 establishes an income tax credit for firearm safety devices which applies to both installed safety devices that prevent a firearm from being operated such as cable and trigger locks; and storage devices including safes, gun cases, or similar devices that can be unlocked only by a key, combination, or equivalent mechanism. This bill mirrors a bipartisan piece of legislation that passed overwhelmingly in Virginia and was commended by Everytown for Gun Safety for its passage.

This tax credit will be available on a first-come-first basis per taxable year through the Office of the Comptroller. A sponsor amendment caps the total tax credit at \$100,000.

Young people, aged 15-34 accounted for 53% of all gun deaths in 2022, with firearms as the leading cause of death among children and teens ages 1-17 in 2022³. Numerous studies have found that safe firearm storage can reduce suicide and unintentional gun deaths among children and teens by up to 54%.

Johns Hopkins University observed that on average a Marylander is killed every eleven hours. HB 250 is a necessary and bipartisan approach to ensuring responsible gun usage by strengthening gun safety in Maryland. HB250 will save lives as it bolsters and incentivizes the secure storage and usage of firearms.

I urge the Committee to give a favorable report on HB 250.

¹ Johns Hopkins University - Bloomberg School of Public Health. (n.d.). *State Data: Maryland*. Center for Gun Violence Solutions. <https://publichealth.jhu.edu/center-for-gun-violence-solutions/maryland>

² 9, A. A., & Anderman, A. (2024, June 24). *Safe storage laws save lives*. GIFFORDS. <https://giffords.org/analysis/safe-storage-laws-save-lives/>

³ Johns Hopkins University. (n.d.). Gun Violence in the United States in 2022. <https://publichealth.jhu.edu/sites/default/files/2024-09/2022-cgvs-gun-violence-in-the-united-states.pdf>