



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

***UNFAVORABLE***

The Maryland State Rifle & Pistol Association (MSRPA) opposes HB 937 Sales and Use Tax - Firearms, Firearm Accessories, and Ammunition - Rate Alteration. This bill will increase the sales and use tax rates for firearms, firearm accessories and ammunition from 6 % to 12%.

Are the bill sponsors trying to make it too expensive for citizens to buy firearms, ammunition and accessories? You are essentially raising the price of self-defense out of reach for many Marylanders. We're also confused: Delegate Vogel submitted a bill in this session, HB 250 Income Tax – Credit for Firearm Safety Devices, which will provide an income tax credit for the purchase of firearm safety devices, however HB 937 will increase the tax on such devices. You are making safe ownership of a firearm more costly for Maryland families and citizens.

Firearm, ammunition, and accessory 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, where will the state find the funds it needs? Are you seeking a way to fix the budget deficit or is this just another gun control bill?

The MSRPA respectfully requests an UNFAVORABLE report on SB 937.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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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.**