

Opposition to HB1191

HB1191 – Secondhand Precious Metal Object Dealers – Temporary Event-Based Dealer Limited License - Establishment

Laura N. Dohoney-Pawn Administrator/Analyst
Anne Arundel County Police
2/25/2026

MD General Assembly
House of Delegates
Economic Matters Committee

RE: Opposition to HB1191

Dear Honorable Chair Valderrama and distinguished Members of the Economic Matters Committee,

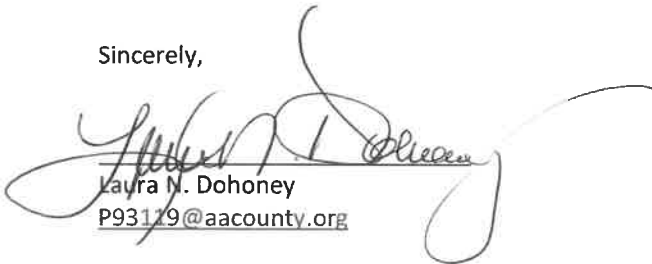
I am writing to formally object to the passing of HB1191 to enable limited Secondhand Precious Metal Object Dealers licenses be issued to businesses on a temporary basis without having a fixed business address for the following reasons:

1. This would cause a significant inconvenience for law enforcement to do inspections and/or recover stolen property from these dealers. They can have an event in Anne Arundel County, yet their fixed business address could theoretically be in Hagerstown where they can store property from the Anne Arundel County event. Police would be subjected to travel to do inspections and recoveries wasting time and resources.
2. Currently there are some counties that have separate “Secondhand Dealer” licenses apart from the state issued “Secondhand Precious Metal Object Dealer” license. Issuing licenses for businesses that do not have fixed business addresses could create confusion for these dealers and more room for violations of county codes that vary county to county.
3. There are conflicts with this proposed law vs the current Title 12.
 - a. For example:
 - i. 1) 12–205. (c) *The Secretary may not issue more than 1 license for any single business location unless the dealers at that location are in partnership.* The way HB1191 is written, a Temporary Event Dealer can set up an event at another dealer’s fixed business address which is a contradiction to the above portion of Title 12.
 - ii. 2) 12–206. (a) *A license authorizes the licensee to do business as a dealer only at the address for which the license is issued*
4. After reaching out to current licensed dealers in Anne Arundel County for their input on this proposed legislation, all that replied back were opposed to it. They felt that it was unfair business practice for an out of county business to take business away from them and have less requirements than a fixed business address in county with insurance requirements, etc.
 - a. Here are some of the responses from our Anne Arundel County dealers:
 - i. *“I am totally against any temporary license to do business. It is totally unfair to the local businesses that have to have the correct zoning, follow local laws and hire local people”.*
(Ron-MD Recyclers)

- ii. *"As a small business in Anne Arundel County, The Annapolis Coin Exchange is not in favor of legislation HB1191. We feel this will take away from local businesses". (George-Annapolis Coin Exchange)*
 - iii. *"We think this is a bad idea. How would it be monitored they are on the move. We think it would be hard on A.A.Co & it would also take business a way from dealer's who spent money to get store fronts". (Frank -Pasadena Pawn & Gun)*
 - iv. *"This proposed law would just put more hardship on the businesses that have been operating effectively for years and giving consumers a safe place to buy and sell precious metals". (Greg-Goldfather)*
 - v. *"I am Totally opposed to this bill. This is where all of the problems stemmed from way back when. We are going backwards if this bill passes". (Larry-Sanders Jewelers)*
 - vi. *"As a secondhand dealer with a fixed address, I would be AGAINST this proposal". (Jeff-Greens Jewelers)*
 - vii. *"I'm totally against this!!! are the laws gonna be rewritten because my understanding is a transaction can only be written up at your place of business or at the customers home. We will be going back to the wild wild West of years ago when people were meeting customers at flea markets and grocery store parking lot big businesses coming into our area to take our business away from us". (Noel-Anne Arundel Jewelry Buyers)*
5. As some of the dealers above alluded to, the gold rush era of 2009-2012 wreaked havoc on state agencies and local police agencies where secondhand precious metal licenses were being issued to traveling gold buying events, much like what this bill is seeking. The gold parties were mostly non-compliant, utilized an increased amount of police time and resources, and took business away from established dealers that had fixed business addresses.
 6. If this were to pass, it would likely strain police resources again and possibly require more help. Again, during the previous gold rush era when gold prices were high, though not as high as they are now, there were 3 members of our unit to handle inspections, compliance checks, violations to DLLR and County License & Permits, writing reports, attending administrative court hearings, etc. Currently there is 1 member of this unit.
 7. Last but not least, I looked at this bill from various angles and cannot find any benefits to Anne Arundel County, our citizens or businesses if it were to pass.

For the reasons stated above and as a member of law enforcement overseeing the secondhand precious metal object dealers in Anne Arundel County for the past 20 years, including a time previously when traveling gold shows were allowed, my position on this is **UNFAVORABLE** to say the least. I urge you to reject HB1191.

Sincerely,



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