

VogelFAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Chrissy Vogel

Position: FAV

To: Maryland House Economic Matters Committee

From: Chrissy Vogel, National Rarities

Re: Testimony in Support of Maryland House Bill 1191

Date: March 9th, 2026

National Rarities is seeking a change in the law that acknowledges National Rarities' licensure is the same as that of Maryland based secondhand precious metal object dealers. The only difference between Maryland based secondhand precious metal object dealers and National Rarities is that National Rarities doesn't have a brick and mortar presence in Maryland. Rather, National Rarities hosts events with local jewelers in which it buys second hand jewelry and precious metals from customers of the local jeweler. When holding such events outside of Maryland, National Rarities complies with state, county and municipal laws for such purchases, including sharing the items purchased with local law enforcement and holding the items purchased for the applicable periods to allow local law enforcement to confirm the items aren't on its stolen items list. National Rarities also complies with the applicable law regarding the buyers National Rarities sends to events, including any requirements for state, county or municipal licensure.

As noted, Maryland law currently doesn't allow for a business model like National Rarities because it doesn't have a brick and mortar presence in Maryland. This appears to be due to the applicable statute remaining as originally enacted in 1981, focused solely on estate sales. If enacted, HB 1191 would allow National Rarities to conduct events at local jewelers that, in effect, allow those consumers to bring the estate items to National Rarities rather than hold an estate sale. In each case, the local jeweler and National Rarities would comply with all applicable laws and regulations secondhand precious metal object dealers. National Rarities would be considered a temporary event based dealer subject to all licensure and reporting requirements under Maryland. National Rarities would also be subject to and comply with county and municipal law regarding licensure, reporting and hold requirements.

Thank you for your consideration.

HB1191 Testimony - Boaf0 (1).pdf

Uploaded by: Delegate Adrian Boaf0

Position: FAV

ADRIAN BOAFO
Legislative District 23
Prince George's County

ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER

Economic Matters Committee

Chair
Workers' Compensation
Subcommittee



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Chairwoman Kris Valderrama
Economic Matters Committee
House Office Building, Room 230
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Chair Valderrama, Vice-Chair Charkoudian, and Members of the Economic Matters Committee,

HB 1191 is a straightforward bill that updates Maryland's laws governing secondhand precious metal and gemstone dealers so that our statute reflects how this marketplace operates today while continuing to maintain the consumer protections and law enforcement safeguards already established in Maryland law.

In recent years, a number of specialized estate buying companies have emerged that purchase jewelry, coins, precious metals, and other collectibles directly from consumers. These businesses do not lend money and they do not operate as pawn brokers. Instead, they typically partner with local jewelry stores to host short-term buying events where customers can bring in inherited or unused items to sell.

These events provide several benefits. Consumers receive professional valuations and transparent pricing for items they may not otherwise know how to sell. At the same time, local jewelers benefit from additional customer traffic and new visitors coming into their stores.

However, Maryland's current statute does not clearly account for this type of short-term, event-based business model. Because of that, legitimate businesses sometimes face unnecessary administrative hurdles simply because the law has not kept pace with how the industry now operates.

HB 1191 addresses this issue by creating a limited license category for secondhand precious metal and gemstone dealers. This new license is designed specifically for businesses that participate in these short-term buying events. Importantly, the bill maintains the existing oversight, reporting requirements, and consumer protections that are already part of Maryland law.

Ultimately, this bill is about modernizing Maryland law and providing regulatory clarity while maintaining strong protections for consumers and safeguards for law enforcement. For those reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report on House Bill 1191.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adrian A. Boafo".

Delegate Adrian A. Boafo

MotesFAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Mark Motes

Position: FAV

To: Maryland House Economic Matters Committee

From Meritage Jewelers

Re: Testimony In Support of HB 1191

Date: March 9th 2026

Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify.

My name is Mark Motes, and I am the CEO and Owner of Meritage Jewelers in Timonium. We are a local jewelry store that primarily focuses on selling fine jewelry, engagement rings, and making repairs.

Over the past several years, we have hosted a number of short-term estate buying events in partnership with a professional jewelry buyback company. These events allow customers to bring in inherited or unused jewelry, coins, and other valuables to have them evaluated and, if they choose, sold.

From our perspective as a retailer, these events have been extremely positive. They bring new people into our store, reconnect us with existing customers, and often lead to additional retail sales when customers decide to trade older pieces for something new. Just as importantly, these companies specialize in evaluating estate jewelry, which helps ensure customers receive accurate valuations.

I also want to note that Kuhns Jewelers in Salisbury has hosted similar events and experienced the same benefits. They would have liked to be here today to testify as well, but were unfortunately unable to attend.

From a jeweler's perspective, these events have been good for our business, good for our customers, and good for local retail.

For those reasons, I respectfully support HB 1191 and ask for a favorable report.

Thank you!

HB1191 FWA MD Labor 2026.pdf

Uploaded by: Marissa Yancone

Position: FWA



LEGISLATIVE OFFICE
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Annapolis, Maryland 21401
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MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF LABOR TESTIMONY ON HB1191

TO: House Economic Matters Committee
FROM: Maryland Department of Labor
DATE: March 11, 2026
BILL: HB1191 Secondhand Precious Metal Object Dealers - Temporary Event-Based Dealer Limited License - Establishment

MD LABOR POSITION: Favorable With Amendments

The Maryland Department of Labor respectfully submits this letter regarding House Bill 1191.

House Bill 1191 establishes a limited license for temporary event-based dealers of secondhand precious metal objects, allowing individuals without a fixed Maryland business address to conduct business at discrete events hosted at the locations of licensed dealers. The bill authorizes the Secretary of Labor to issue limited licenses and applies existing recordkeeping, inspection, and enforcement requirements to these licensees.

The Department is comfortable with the overall framework of the bill with the adoption of several technical amendments proposed by MD Labor. These amendments clarify responsibilities between licensed dealers and limited licensees, ensure clear identification of the licensed dealer responsible for preparing and submitting required transaction records, and ensure existing statutory provisions apply consistently when dealers accept items from limited licensees.

These amendments are technical in nature and are intended to improve clarity and enforceability while preserving the sponsor's intent. With these amendments, MD Labor believes the bill establishes a workable regulatory framework for temporary event-based dealers while maintaining appropriate oversight and accountability.

The Department looks forward to continuing to work with the sponsor and the Committee as House Bill 1191 moves through the legislative process.

For questions, please contact **Andrew Fulginiti** at **Andrew.Fulginiti@maryland.gov**.

www.labor.maryland.gov

HB1191 Opposition (2).pdf

Uploaded by: Laura Dohoney

Position: UNF

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,

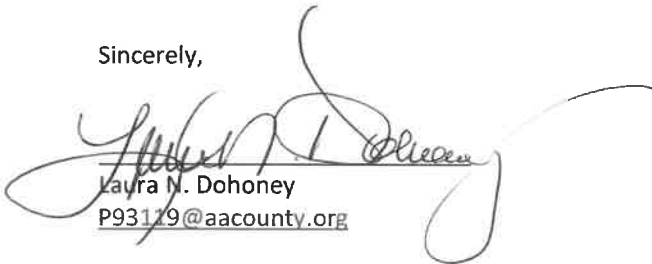
I am writing to formally object to the passing of HB1191 to enable limited Secondhand Precious Metal Object Dealers licenses be issued to businesses on a temporary basis without having a fixed business address for the following reasons:

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,



Laura N. Dohoney
P93119@aacounty.org