

Lewis Rice Tesimony.1.pdf

Uploaded by: Bill Bolster

Position: FAV

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

My name is Bill Bolster. My firm, Lewis Rice, serves as outside counsel for National Rarities.

National Rarities seeks a change in the law to allow National Rarities' to do business in Maryland like it does in nearly all other states. The only difference between Maryland based secondhand precious metal object dealers and National Rarities is that National Rarities lacks a brick and mortar presence in Maryland. 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. This includes sharing the items purchased with local law enforcement and holding those items 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 This appears to be due to the applicable statute remaining as originally enacted in 1981, focused solely on estate sales and a concern for transient buyers, buying on their own, with no oversight nor means for law enforcement to find them if stolen goods, for instance, were involved.

If enacted, HB 1191 would allow National Rarities to conduct events at local jewelers that would, 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 law. National Rarities would also be subject to and comply with county and municipal law regarding licensure, reporting and hold requirements.

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

Thank you!

Vogel Script.1[14].pdf

Uploaded by: Chrissy Vogel

Position: FAV

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

My name is Chrissy Vogel. I am the Senior Director of Partnerships for National Rarities.

National Rarities is a family owned business that buys precious metals and jewelry from customers at local jewelers throughout the country with two to four day “events”. Local jewelers, like Meritage and Kuhns, host these events because National Rarities has a stronger knowledge on valuation and buys items the jewelers might not otherwise want to buy. Even more, the events create foot traffic in their stores with existing and, possibly, new customers.

National Rarities jealously guards its reputation in the communities that it serves. National Rarities must hold itself to the highest standards of customer service, an element of which is proper licensure. National Rarities investigates applicable rules and regulations in the markets it serves to properly comply with applicable law. National Rarities also invests in and trains its employees to properly understand the valuation of precious metals and jewelry so that they can provide its customers, and those of the local jeweler, a positive experience.

National Rarities can’t sustain its business model without having the customer, both the jeweler, who welcomes National Rarities into its place of business, and the jeweler’s customers, know that we are in compliance with applicable law and are there to serve the best interests of the customer and jeweler.

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

Thank you!

HB1191 Letter of Support (1).pdf

Uploaded by: Marissa Yancone

Position: FAV

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF LABOR TESTIMONY ON HB1191

TO: Senate Finance Committee
FROM: Maryland Department of Labor
DATE: March 24, 2026
BILL: HB1191 Secondhand Precious Metal Object Dealers - Temporary
Event-Based Dealer Limited License - Establishment

MD LABOR POSITION: FAVORABLE

The Maryland Department of Labor respectfully submits this letter of support 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.

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

Kuhns Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Susan Purnell

Position: FAV

My name is Susan Purnell, and I am writing on behalf of Kuhn's Jewelers in support of House Bill 1191.

Kuhn's Jewelers has proudly partnered with National Rarities since 2018, hosting 26 events together over that time. Through this partnership, we have seen meaningful benefits not only for our business, but for our customers and our broader community.

These events consistently bring increased foot traffic into our store, introducing new customers and creating additional opportunities for engagement. More importantly, National Rarities has facilitated the circulation of over \$3 million back into our local community providing individuals with a trusted and professional avenue to sell items they no longer need.

From our experience, National Rarities operates with a high level of professionalism and integrity. Their team includes knowledgeable professionals with extensive training and expertise in evaluating jewelry, coins, and other valuables. They treat our customers with respect, take the time to educate them throughout the process, and ensure each interaction reflects positively on our store.

Equally important, they have consistently followed all requirements and guidelines associated with operating these events. At no point has their presence compromised our reputation and in fact, it has strengthened the trust we have built with our customers.

We are selective about who we allow to represent our brand inside our store, and National Rarities has proven to be a partner that aligns with our values. Their events support local businesses, provide a valuable service to the community, and are conducted in a responsible and professional manner.

For these reasons, we strongly support House Bill 1191 and encourage its passage.

Opposition to HB1191-Senate Finance Comm.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
3/24/2026

MD General Assembly
Senate Finance Committee

RE: Opposition to HB1191

Dear Honorable Chair Beidle and distinguished Members of the Senate Finance 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 these 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. This business model, if passed, will take business away from most of the "Mom and Pop" secondhand precious metal licensed businesses in the state that pay state taxes and fees, have fixed business addresses, only to benefit out of state businesses.
 7. 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.
 8. 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