

HB0303

Maryland General Assembly

Position: Favorable

Good afternoon Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee.

My name is Galen Muhammad. I am the State Coordinator for United 2A Collective and chapter president of Onyx Sharpshooters, based in Prince George's County. Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of House Bill 303, which requires the publication of an official handbook explaining the laws governing the wearing, carrying, and transporting of handguns in Maryland.

This bill takes a practical, common-sense approach to a real problem: Maryland handgun law is complex, highly detailed, and frequently updated through both legislation and court decisions. Even well-intentioned, law-abiding residents can struggle to understand exactly what is permitted, where it is permitted, and how firearms must be transported to remain in compliance.

House Bill 303 directs the Maryland Office of the Attorney General to publish a plain-language handbook that summarizes applicable state law, federal law, and relevant case law, and to update it regularly. The bill also allows that handbook to be used as an educational resource in firearms safety training.

(Source: HB 303 bill text and fiscal/policy note, Maryland General Assembly.)

From a local standpoint, this clarity is especially important. In areas like Prince George's County and Baltimore County, residents often travel across multiple jurisdictions in a single day — commuting to work, attending training, going to ranges, or transporting firearms for lawful purposes. The rules around sensitive places, transport conditions, reciprocity limits, and prohibited locations can differ based on setting and circumstance. Right now, people often rely on scattered statutes, unofficial summaries, or word-of-mouth. That increases the risk of unintentional violations. An official, centralized handbook reduces confusion and increases compliance.

I also want to emphasize that this bill is about education and transparency, not expansion of carry rights. No standards change under this bill — only access to accurate information improves. When the rules are easier to understand, they are easier to follow and easier to enforce fairly. The bill's fiscal analysis indicates the handbook can be produced using existing resources, making this a low-cost, high-value public education measure.

(Source: HB 303 fiscal and policy note.)

Clear rules, clearly explained, support public safety, responsible ownership, and consistent enforcement. That benefits residents, instructors, law enforcement, and the courts alike.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask for a favorable report on House Bill 303.