

BILL NO: Senate Bill 0027  
TITLE: Regulated Firearms – Seven-Day Waiting Period - Exceptions  
COMMITTEE: Judicial Proceedings  
HEARING DATE: January 27, 2026  
POSITION: **OPPOSE**

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The Women's Law Center of Maryland **opposes SB 0027**.

Maryland law has required a seven-day waiting period for the purchase of a regulated firearm since 1966. See *Md. Code, Public Safety §§ 5-123–5-124*. This waiting period plays a critical public safety role by allowing the Maryland State Police Gun Licensing Division sufficient time to conduct a comprehensive background investigation of the applicant.

During this seven-day period, the State Police review criminal history, verify whether the applicant has been served with a temporary protective order or is subject to a final protective order, and assess potential mental health disqualifications. These safeguards are particularly important in preventing firearms from being placed in the hands of individuals who pose a risk to intimate partners and family members.

Intimate partner violence occurs at alarming rates across Maryland and the nation. It is well-established that the presence of a firearm in an abusive relationship dramatically increases the risk of lethality. Abusers exist in every profession and socioeconomic class—including law enforcement. Creating an exception to Maryland's firearm safety laws based solely on an individual's profession undermines these critical protections and creates unnecessary and potentially deadly risks for survivors of intimate partner violence.

The seven-day waiting period is a long-standing, evidence-based safeguard that protects survivors, families, and communities. Weakening this protection threatens public safety and disproportionately endangers survivors of domestic violence.

For these reasons, the Women's Law Center of Maryland respectfully requests an **unfavorable report** on SB 0027.

*The Women's Law Center of Maryland is a non-profit legal services organization whose mission is to ensure the physical safety, economic security, and bodily autonomy of women in Maryland. Our mission is advanced through direct legal services, information and referral hotlines, and statewide advocacy.*