



**Senate Bill 0692**  
**Firearms Dealers and Employees - Required Training and Exam**  
**UNFAVORABLE**

Senate Bill 692 requires training on multiple topics for all federal firearms licensees, employees and staff members who handle firearms within the dealer's place of business or are involved in selling or transferring firearms.

The Secretary of the Maryland State Police is charged with the responsibility of approving at least one training course which may be completed using the Internet. However, the bill language is silent on who or which entity is responsible for crafting and publishing the required course along with the on-line testing and regulatory reporting. The bill is also silent on who will bear the cost of website hosting and maintenance. Written training materials are required but once again the bill is silent on whether the materials will be electronic or physical documents.

The bill language also references the inclusion of unspecified written training materials. Who will bear the responsibility for the creation of the written materials, their printing, and distribution is unknown.

A federal firearms license is not required to sell ammunition. The bill fails to recognize that many retail outlets sell ammunition, which calls into question the inclusion of instruction on the laws regulating the sale of ammunition when so many other sources, including mail-order, are readily available.

Equally curious is the requirement for teaching firearm safety training, with no standards on the type or extent of formal training or certifications needed. Nor does the bill consider that dealers have neither the time nor facilities to hold training classes for individual customers and no standards for testing the customers' comprehension of the training are provided.

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Dealers and their employees are expected to learn how to recognize an individual who intends to use a firearm for unlawful purpose or self-harm and report this individual to law-enforcement. This is an open invitation to defamation of character lawsuits.

Considering the shortcomings identified, providing carte blanche authority to the Secretary to include “any other subject the Secretary determines is appropriate” is an open invitation to government abuse of power.

With no upper limit on the number of questions on the exam, the exam could be nearly impossible to complete.

No means of verifying the identity of the person actually taking the on-line internet based training course exists.

A written multiple-choice exam is required, but the bill does not specify whether this written exam will be on-line or in person with a physical document. How the Secretary will determine when the minimum 70% score has been achieved is unknown. The inference is the exam will be in-person.

Who will administer the exam, and/or monitor those taking the exam or where the exam will be taken is unknown. The Secretary will be compelled to establish testing locations across the State. The “take the exam as many times as needed” in an unlimited time period provisions are ludicrous.

In summary, Senate Bill 692 is misguided, fatally flawed and bears all the hallmarks of gun legislation simply for the sake of gun legislation. The citizens of Maryland deserve better.

We strongly urge an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 0692.

Respectfully,

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