



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

The Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV) is the state domestic violence coalition that brings together victim service providers, allied professionals, and concerned individuals for the common purpose of reducing intimate partner and family violence and its harmful effects on our citizens. **MNADV urges the COMMITTEE to report unfavorably on SB 27.**

Senate Bill 27 would exempt the purchaser, renter, or receiver of regulated firearm if they are a law enforcement officer, an individual who retired as a law enforcement officer in good standing from a law enforcement agency, from the required 7 day waiting period when a sale, rental, or transfer of a regulated firearm occurs.

It must be acknowledged that the people who would not have to wait 7 days the purchaser, renter, or receiver of the regulated firearm is a law enforcement officer, an individual who retired as a law enforcement officer in good standing from a law enforcement agency, or an individual to whom a permit to wear, carry, or transport a firearm has been are sometimes abusers. In fact, those abusers who own guns can be the most dangerous perpetrators of domestic violence.

The presence of firearms is a known danger to victims of domestic violence. The Network opposes removing or shortening waiting periods for firearms for several key reasons:

1. Loss of a "Cooling-Off" Period - The primary concern is the elimination of the mandatory seven-day waiting period. In domestic violence situations, the risk of lethality often spikes during high-tension periods (such as a victim attempting to leave or immediately after a heated argument). A waiting period provides a buffer that can prevent an abuser from purchasing a firearm in a moment of heightened rage. Statistical data frequently shows that "cooling-off" periods reduce impulsive acts of violence, including homicides and suicides.

For further information contact Laure Ruth ■ Public Policy Director ■ 301-852-3930 ■ lruth@mnadv.org

1997 Annapolis Exchange Parkway, Suite 300 ■ Annapolis, MD 21401
Tel: 301-429-3601 ■ E-mail: info@mnadv.org ■ Website: www.mnadv.org



2. **Background Check Delays:** While the FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) is fast, it is not always "instant" when it comes to domestic violence records. DV-related misdemeanor convictions or active protective orders sometimes take time to appear in the system due to reporting lags between local courts and federal databases. A seven-day window allows law enforcement more time to ensure the buyer doesn't have a disqualifying history that hasn't "cleared" the system yet. Removing this window increases the chance that a firearm is transferred before a disqualifying record is flagged.

3. **Increased Lethality in the Home:** The presence of gun heightens lethality in domestic violence situations. The presence of a gun in a domestic violence situation increases the risk of homicide by 500%.

Any legislation that makes it easier or faster for individuals to acquire regulated firearms—particularly by bypassing established safety windows—directly correlates to an increased risk of fatal outcomes for survivors.

For the above stated reasons, the **Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence** urges an **unfavorable report on SB 27.**