



Ben Kelkye, President
wmsc_benk@hotmail.com
ben@kelkye.com
301 401-6263

February 27, 2026

Honorable Members of the
Maryland Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Md. 21401

**Subject: SB-0677 Public Safety-Handgun Permits-Firearms Training Course
SUPPORT**

Dear Honorable Senators:

As the President of the Western Maryland Sportsmen's Coalition, Inc., I am honored to represent this organization, which is made up of numerous hunting clubs and sportsmen's associations. The Coalition consists of thousands of individual members who reside throughout Garrett, Allegany, Washington, Frederick, and Carroll Counties. In my role, I collaborate closely with the leadership teams of these organizations, striving to ensure that the interests and achievements of sportsmen and sportswomen in Maryland's five most western counties are recognized and promoted. Together, we work for the benefit and advancement of our member clubs and associations, supporting the outdoor traditions and community values that define Western Maryland.

On March 3, 2026, the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee will be hearing the advantages and disadvantages of **SB-0677 - Public Safety-Handgun Permits-Firearms Training Course**.

I am a certified instructor in Maryland's required firearms training course. In that capacity I often communicate with other instructors that present this course of study to students seeking to learn proper techniques for the wear and carrying of a handgun. I am one of the few Master Firearms Training instructors in the U.S. and have trained thousands of students. It is my experience that there is a common desire of trainers and students alike that more practical topics relating directly to the basic skills and techniques of wearing and carrying a handgun need to be incorporated into the training lesson plan. Senate Bill-0677 seeks to achieve this.

Through my many years of teaching, I have arrived at the conclusion and firm belief that education is empowerment. As the elected representative of the Western Maryland Sportsmen's Coalition, Inc. and together with the sportsmen and sportswomen of Western Maryland, ***we strongly urge you to support and vote favorably on SB-0677.***

Respectfully,

Ben Kelkye

President

Western Maryland Sportsmen's Coalition, Inc.

Ben Kelkye	President, WMSC, President Frederick County Sportsmen's Council
Jerry Zembower	President, Garrett & Allegany Sportsmen's Association
Joe Winter	President, Washington County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs
Matt Guilfoyle	President, Carroll County Sportsmen's Association

Garrett

Allegany

Washington

Frederick

Carroll