

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Institute for Legislative Action

11250 WAPLES MILL ROAD

FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22030



NRA

January 23, 2026

National Rifle Association

11250 Waples Mill Road

Fairfax, VA 22030

Chair Smith and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

My name is John Weber, and I represent the National Rifle Association and our members in Maryland. The NRA supports Senate Bill 27 and thanks Senator Folden and Senator McKay for their leadership on this issue.

Waiting periods are often sold as a safety measure, but there is no clear evidence that forcing a law abiding adult to wait days or weeks to take possession of a firearm stops criminals or prevents violence. Criminals, by definition, get guns outside the legal system and are not slowed by paperwork or delays. The people who feel the impact of waiting periods are the law abiding.

Maryland already has one of the most stringent background check frameworks in the country. Law enforcement officers, retired officers in good standing, and citizens who hold a permit have been fingerprinted, back ground checked, and are often subject to ongoing review. For this group a seven-day waiting period does not add new information or weed out dangerous people, it simply forces them to wait longer to exercise a fundamental right. SB 27 recognizes that reality and removes a redundant delay for those the State has already approved and continues to monitor.

More broadly, waiting periods can have serious unintended consequences. They can keep a woman with a credible threat and documented fear from getting a tool of self defense when she needs it most, while doing nothing to stop a determined abuser who ignores the law. They can prevent a small business owner who has received threats or been robbed from promptly improving their security, even as the offender remains at large. Public safety is not improved by imposing delays on the exercise of a fundamental right.

Senate Bill 27 keeps all existing disqualifiers and background checks in place. It does not change who can legally possess a gun, and it does not weaken enforcement against prohibited persons. It simply removes an unnecessary delay for those whom Maryland already trusts with the responsibility of carrying a handgun in public.

For these reasons, the National Rifle Association respectfully urges the members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee to give Senate Bill 27 a favorable report.

Thank you for your consideration.

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Institute for Legislative Action

11250 WAPLES MILL ROAD

FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22030



NRA

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Weber". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John Weber
State Director
NRA-ILA