

SB 27 Seven Day Waiting Period.pdf

Uploaded by: Cathy Wright

Position: FAV

SB 27
Regulated Firearms – Seven-Day Waiting Period – Exceptions

FAVORABLE

SB 27 would remove the seven-day waiting period for the purchase and transfer of a regulated firearm for Maryland citizens who are either active/retired law enforcement or who possess a valid Maryland Wear & Carry Permit. Waiting periods are arbitrary impositions with no effect on crime or suicide, introduce no additional investigative avenues, and only burden law-abiding gun owners without changing how or when criminals obtain firearms.

Waiting periods were once part of federal law, mandated by the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act of 1993 – but only until the National Instant Criminal Check (NICS) came online in 1998. The five-day waiting period mandated under the Brady Bill was replaced with the instant check system. While most checks are instant, the FBI actually has three days to complete the background check before the transfer can proceed. The investigation can continue well past three days, and in cases in which the firearm was transferred after the three-day window, the case is referred to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (BATFE) for retrieval of the firearm.

Arguments for waiting periods focus on two easily disproven claims: waiting periods allow more time for the background investigation and allow for a “cooling off” period. There is no evidence to support either claim.

First, the mechanism of the background check is not altered in the presence of a waiting period. The FBI would still run the prospective buyer’s information against the same databases containing the same information they do now. Most buyers will continue to be approved instantly, and those who are flagged for additional investigation will still be flagged for additional investigation. The investigation itself remains the same and can continue for 90 days, when the data is required to be destroyed. No additional information will be uncovered with the addition of a waiting period on top of the existing three-day delay.

Proponents of the waiting period claim it is a “cooling off period” that supposedly gives the prospective buyer time to reconsider their intentions and protect against impulsive actions. This argument has no logical basis. Two-thirds of gun owners own more than one gun. A cooling-off period for these gun owners could not possibly have an effect as they already own other firearms. Anecdotal evidence about a person who purchases a firearm and then immediately uses it to harm themselves or somebody else is just that: anecdotal. There is no scientific evidence that waiting periods have any effect on suicide, homicide, or mass shootings.

Criminals will not be affected by waiting periods. Most state inmates who were in possession of a firearm at the time of their arrest obtained the firearm through an illegal source or from a friend or family member. U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics, “[Source and Use of Firearms Involved in Crimes: Survey of Prison Inmates, 2016.](#)” 2019. p7.

I respectfully request a FAVORABLE report on SB 27.

Thank you for your consideration.

Cathy S. Wright, self
North Beach, MD 20714
cathywrightnra@gmail.com
919.360.0484

SB0027_Testimony_2A_Maryland.pdf

Uploaded by: John Josselyn

Position: FAV



Senate Bill 0027
Regulated Firearms- Seven-Day Waiting Period - Exceptions
FAVORABLE

The original intent of the seven-day waiting period was to allow the Maryland State Police Licensing Division adequate time to complete a background check before “not disapproving” the citizens request to purchase a handgun. This statute is now over 50 years old and no longer reflects today’s technology.

Citizens who hold a valid Maryland Permit to Wear and Carry a Handgun issued by the Maryland State Police pursuant to Public Safety Article §5-306 (a) are demonstrably the most law-abiding segment of our society.

They have received and successfully completed the rigorous training requirements contained in Public Safety Article §5-306 (a-1). Further, they have submitted their fingerprints and undergone extensive background checks. All at considerable personal expense.

The overwhelming majority of Wear and Carry Permit holders have also successfully completed the Handgun Qualification Training required under Public Safety Article §5-117.1.

We strongly believe the seven-day waiting period should not be imposed upon Wear and Carry Permit holders. Further, there is no credible evidence that public safety would be compromised in any way by the passage of Senate Bill 0027.

We respectfully request a favorable report.

John H. Josselyn
2A Maryland
01/27/2026

MD SB 27 NRA Support.pdf

Uploaded by: John Weber

Position: FAV

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

MSI Testimony on SB 27 and HB 126.pdf

Uploaded by: Mark Pennak

Position: FAV



January 27, 2026

WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF MARK W. PENNAK, PRESIDENT, MSI, IN SUPPORT OF SB 27 and HB 126

I am the President of Maryland Shall Issue (“MSI”). Maryland Shall Issue is a Section 501(c)(4), all-volunteer, non-partisan organization dedicated to the preservation and advancement of gun owners’ rights in Maryland. It seeks to educate the community about the right of self-protection, the safe handling of firearms, and the responsibility that goes with carrying a firearm in public. I am also an attorney and an active member of the Bar of Maryland and of the Bar of the District of Columbia. I recently retired from the United States Department of Justice, where I practiced law for 33 years in the Courts of Appeals of the United States and in the Supreme Court of the United States. I am an expert in Maryland firearms law, federal firearms law and the law of self-defense. I am also a Maryland State Police certified handgun instructor for the Maryland Wear and Carry Permit and the Maryland Handgun Qualification License (“HQL”) and a certified NRA instructor in rifle, pistol, personal protection in the home, personal protection outside the home and in muzzle loader. I appear today as President of MSI in SUPPORT of SB 26 and its cross-file, HB 126 (“the Bill”).

The Bill And Existing Statutory Framework:

Under current Maryland law, MD Code, Public Safety, § 5-123, a licensed Maryland dealer may not transfer a regulated firearm “until after 7 days following the time a 18 firearm application is executed by the firearm applicant, in triplicate, and the original is forwarded by the prospective seller or transferor to the Secretary.” MD Code, Public Safety, § 5-124, imposes the same 7-day waiting period on sales by a “person who is not a licensee.” This Bill would create an express exception to this 7-day waiting period on both types of sales for “(1) A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER; 2. AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS RETIRED AS A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER IN GOOD STANDING FROM A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY; 3. AN INDIVIDUAL TO WHOM A PERMIT TO WEAR, CARRY, OR TRANSPORT A HANDGUN HAS BEEN ISSUED UNDER TITLE 5, SUBTITLE 3 OF THIS ARTICLE.

Nothing in this Bill would repeal or interfere with the background check system conducted by the Maryland State Police for each sale of a handgun. Each such a sale requires a prospective purchaser to complete an “application,” MD Code, Public Safety, §§ 5-117, 5-118, and the application be approved by the Maryland State Police, MD Code, Public Safety, § 5-120. The State Police must conduct their own background

investigation of the applicant as required by MD Code, Public Safety, § 5-121. A background investigation through the NICS federal system for each dealer sale is separately required by federal law. See 18 U.S.C. § 922(t). The State Police is the State “point of contact” under the NICS system for all handgun sales and thus the State Police (not dealers) conduct the NICS background check for handgun sales using Federal form 4473. The State Police also conduct a separate background investigation using State databases using the information collected by the State form 77R application separately required by Section 5-117 and Section 5-118. See <https://bit.ly/3JuDn3f>. **This Bill does not amend any of these requirements.**

Maryland’s permitting system for carry permits is likewise administered by the Maryland State Police under MD Code, Public Safety, §§ 5-301-5-313. All applicants for permits are subject to extensive background checks, including fingerprinting. MD Code, Public Safety, § 5-305. Applicants are also required to undergo training consisting of 16 hours of instruction by a Maryland certified firearms instructor (including a graded live fire requirement) for initial permits and 8 hours of training (including graded live fire) for each renewal. See MD Code, Public Safety, 5-306(a)(9), (a-1). The curriculum for the training is developed and mandated by the State Police. MD Code, Public Safety, § 5-306(a-2). Certification of instructors is likewise under the control of the State Police. MD Code, Public Safety, 5-101(q). **This Bill does not amend any of these provisions.**

Discussion:

The Seven-Day Period Is Unconstitutional Under *Bruen*.

The Supreme Court held in *N.Y. State Rifle & Pistol Ass’n v. Bruen*, 597 U.S. 1, 31 (2022), that there is a “general right to publicly carry arms for self-defense.” The Court observed that while States may require carry licenses, such licenses must be issued on a “shall issue” basis and may not be “put toward abusive ends.” 597 U.S. at 38 n.9. The Court thus struck down New York’s “good cause” requirement for carry permits and likewise invalidated Maryland’s then-existing “good and substantial reason” regulatory requirement originally enacted in 1972. 597 U.S. at 15 n.2. See *Matter of Rounds*, 255 Md.App. 205, 213 (2022). *Bruen* makes clear that any regulation of the right to bear arms in public must be justified by the government which must “demonstrat[e] that it [the regulation] is consistent with the Nation’s historical tradition of firearm regulation.” *Id.* at 24.

The Court also made clear in *United States v. Rahimi*, 602 U.S. 680, 691-92 (2024), that any government regulation of “arms bearing conduct” must be supported by “a permissible reason.” This requirement of “a permissible reason” is currently before the Supreme Court in *Wolford v. Lopez*, No. No. 24-1046, which was orally argued on January 20, 2026.¹ A decision in *Wolford* is expected by the end of the Court’s Term

¹ The undersigned is counsel for the petitioners in *Wolford*.

in June or July. Regulation designed to discourage the exercise of Second Amendment rights is not permissible under the Second Amendment any more than it would be permissible under any other Constitutional right. See Amicus Brief of the United States in *Wolford*.²

Under these principles, Maryland’s mandatory 7-day waiting period is open to constitutional attack. In *Ortega v. Grisham*, 148 F.4th 1134 (10th Circuit), *rehearing en banc denied*, 162 F.4th 156 (10th Cir. 2025), the Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit struck down as unconstitutional the same 7-day waiting period imposed by New Mexico for firearm purchases. The court first held that the waiting period “burdens Second Amendment rights, reasoning that “[c]ommon sense dictates that the right to bear arms requires a right to acquire arms, just as the right to free press necessarily includes the right to acquire a printing press, or the right to freely practice religion necessarily rests on a right to acquire a sacred text.” 148 F.4th at 1143. The court stated that “[a]s a general matter, the government cannot delay the exercise of a right because it believes that citizens might misuse it without sufficient time to reflect beforehand.” *Id.* at 1145. The Tenth Circuit held that New Mexico had failed to carry its burden to justify the waiting period under *Bruen*’s test. *Id.* at 1150-51. As the court explained, “[n]othing in the record suggests that the historically understood right to keep and bear arms tolerated universal and indiscriminate burdens on purchasing or acquiring firearms with no way to enjoy the full right.” *Id.* at 1155. That “full right” includes the right to acquire and possess handguns. See *District of Columbia v. Heller*, 554 U.S. 570 (2008). That Maryland applies its 7-day waiting period exclusively to regulated firearms is thus irrelevant.

The Seven Day Period Is Particularly Unnecessary for Law Enforcement Officers and Carry Permit Holders.

Elimination of the 7-day waiting period is especially appropriate for the active and retired law enforcement officers and permit holders. Under LEOSA, 18 U.S.C. §§ 926B & 926C, active duty and retired officers may carry handguns in public without a State issued carry permit. Carry permit holders may also carry handguns in public. These permit holders have been thoroughly vetted by the Maryland State Police, have passed all required background checks (including fingerprinting) and been fully trained by Maryland certified instructors, including passing a scored and graded life-fire test, on first application and for every renewal. There is no conceivable justification for the 7-day waiting period requirement for these individuals. The so-called “cooling off” rationale, noted but rejected in *Ortega*, is particularly senseless for these individuals because they **already possess** regulated firearms and are licensed to carry handguns fully loaded in public.

² The filings in *Wolford* can be found on the Supreme Court’s docket, available at <https://www.supremecourt.gov/search.aspx?filename=/docket/docketfiles/html/public/24-1046.html>

Again, nothing in this Bill affects background checks. With the exception noted below, federal law requires a NICS background check for all dealer sales and that function is already carried out by the State Police, as a “point of contact” to the NICS system for all handgun sales. That NICS system background check is computerized and is typically completed within 15-30 minutes. State background checks using State databases are also all computerized and typically completed well before 7 days have elapsed. Once these background checks have been completed for a sale, further delay past that point is pointless and arbitrary. Indeed, federal law allow a dealer **to forego completely** the NICS background check otherwise required by 18 U.S.C. 922(t)(1), for a person who presents to the FFL “a permit that (I) allows such other person to possess or acquire a firearm; and (II) was issued not more than 5 years earlier by the State in which the transfer is to take place; and (ii) the law of the State provides that such a permit is to be issued only after an authorized government official has verified that the information available to such official does not indicate that possession of a firearm by such other person would be in violation of law.” *Id.*, § 922(t)(3)(A)(i),(ii). **The Maryland carry permit fully qualifies under that provision.** Congress has thus recognized that NICS background checks are simply unnecessary for Maryland permit holders. Maryland should do the same.

The pointless further delay imposed by the 7-day waiting period distinguishes Maryland’s mandatory 7-day waiting periods for all applicants from the waiting period at issue in *McRorey v. Garland*, 99 F.4th 831 (5th Cir. 2024), where the Fifth Circuit sustained a special 10-day period for the completion of the federal NCIS check for 18–20-year-olds. That law allows 10 days for a background check for a special subclass of 18–20-year-olds, where “cause exists to further investigate a possibly disqualifying juvenile record,” but does not allow further delay after that background check had been completed and does not apply more broadly. See 18 U.S.C. § 922(t)(1)(C)(iii). The same is true of *MSI v. Moore*, 116 F.4th 211 (4th Cir. 2024), *cert. denied*, 145 S.Ct. 1049 (2025). While the *MSI* court sustained the 30-day period for the State Police to issue an HQL under MD Code, Public Safety, § 5-117.1, nothing in that opinion suggests that the State Police may impose further delays **after** the HQL background check had been completed. Such further delay is imposed by the 7-day waiting period. In fact, the court noted that the State Police often issue the HQL in far less time. See 116 F.4th at 227 (“there were no completed HQL applications pending disposition for longer than 15 days”). Under existing law, every Maryland carry permit holder is entitled to an HQL free of charge without regard to the process otherwise separately imposed by Section 5-117.1. See MD Code, Public Safety, § 5-306(e).

Because all these individuals, including carry permit holders, have been fingerprinted, they are all covered by the FBI’s “Rap Back” system. Under that system, the State Police will receive prompt notification of the arrest of person whose fingerprints have been submitted to the Rap Back system, regardless of where the arrest is made in the United States. Maryland is a full participant in that Rap Back

system. See <https://www.dpscs.state.md.us/publicservs/bgchecks.shtml>.. That “Rap Back” system did not exist in 1972, when Maryland’s permit system was first created with the enactment of 1972 Maryland Laws, ch. 13. The FBI’s NICS background check and the sophisticated, electronic fingerprinting and computerized background check system currently used by the Maryland State Police are all recent innovations. This comprehensive system allows the State Police to deny a permit to any person who has “exhibited a propensity for violence or instability that may reasonably render the person's possession of a handgun a danger to the person or to another” or who is “otherwise prohibited” by law “from purchasing or possessing a handgun.” MD Code, Public Safety, § 5-306(a)(10). The State Police may immediately revoke the permit held by any person who is no longer eligible for a permit under all the criteria otherwise imposed by Section 5-306. MD Code, Public Safety, § 5-310.

Active duty and retired officers are, of course, very law-abiding. The same is overwhelmingly true for permit holders. See John Lott, Carlisle E. Moody, and Rujun Wang, *Concealed Carry Permit Holders Across the United States: 2023*, at 43-44 (2023) (“it is impossible to think of any other group in the US that is anywhere near as law-abiding,” noting further that “concealed carry permit holders are even more law-abiding than police”) (available at <https://bit.ly/3O8SjGH>). That reality is undisputed. “Simply put, CCW permit holders are not the gun wielders legislators should fear.” *May v. Bonta*, 709 F. Supp. 3d 940, 969 (C.D.Cal. 2023), *aff’d in part, rev’d in part on other grounds sub nom., Wolford v. Lopez*, 116 F.4th 959 (9th Cir. 2025), *cert. granted*, No. 24-1046, --- S.Ct. --- (Oct. 03, 2025); *Wolford v. Lopez*, 686 F.Supp.3d 1034, 1075-76 (D.Haw. 2023) (same). The Rand Corporation agrees. See Rosanna Smart, et al., *The Science of Gun Policy: A Critical Synthesis of Research Evidence on the Effect of Gun Policies in the United States* 427 (4th ed. 2024), available at https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RRA243-9.html (“as a group, license holders are particularly law abiding and rarely are convicted for violent crimes.”).

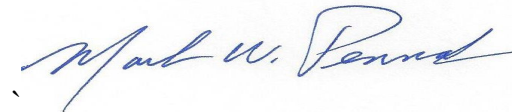
We suggest a technical amendment. Under federal law, the dealer may transfer the firearm within 3 days even if the NICS background check is not completed within that time. See 18 U.S.C. § 922(t)(1)(B)(ii). Maryland’s 7-day waiting period provisions likewise permit a dealer sale or private sale to take place after 7 days regardless of whether the background check is completed. The Bill, as written, can be read as arguably removing that 7-day limitation entirely for active duty and retired law enforcement officers and permit holders. That unintended result would be obviously senseless. Thus, this Bill should be amended to make clear that sales and transfers cannot be delayed beyond that 7-day period. **Again, that is current law.**

More fundamentally, and alternatively, the better approach would be to amend this Bill to make Maryland law consistent with current federal law, Section 922(t)(3)(A)(i),(ii), to allow sales and transfers **to permit holders** without the expensive background investigation otherwise required by Section 5-121. A simple

amendment to Section 5-121, to exempt sales and transfers to permit holders would suffice. Such an amendment would retain the 77R application form under Section 5-117 and Section 5-118 and thus allow the State Police to use that information to register the handgun, **just as it does under current law**. That change would not affect the background investigation separately required by current Maryland law for carry permit **applicants** and permit **renewals** under MD Code, Public Safety, § 5-306(a)(10). That simple change will save the State Police substantial resources and modify the Maryland system to make it more rational and thus more defensible in any future litigation.

For all the foregoing reasons, we urge a favorable report on this Bill, especially if it is amended as outlined above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark W. Pennak". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'M' and 'P'.

Mark W. Pennak
President, Maryland Shall Issue, Inc.
mpennak@marylandshallissue.org

SB 0027_HB 0126_ Regulated Firearms - Seven-Day W

Uploaded by: Trudy Tibbals

Position: FAV

SB 0027/HB 0126: Regulated Firearms - Seven-Day Waiting Period - Exceptions:
Please VOTE TO SUPPORT this common sense bill.

Dear Judicial Proceedings/Judiciary Chair and Members of the Committee,

I respectfully write in **support of SB 0027 – Regulated Firearms – Seven-Day Waiting Period – Exceptions.**

Maryland’s seven-day waiting period for regulated firearms serves an important public safety purpose, and SB 0027 wisely preserves that core protection while creating **narrow, common-sense exceptions** for individuals and circumstances where the delay is unnecessary or counterproductive.

This bill recognizes that a one-size-fits-all approach does not always reflect real-world conditions. By allowing carefully defined exceptions—such as for law enforcement, a retired law enforcement officer who retired in good standing, or an individual with a permit to wear, carry, or transport a handgun—**SB 0027 balances public safety, due process, and responsible firearm ownership. These exceptions** are limited, reasonable, and **do not undermine the intent of the waiting period itself.**

Importantly, **SB 0027 does not weaken background checks or oversight.** Instead, it maintains safeguards while reducing unnecessary burdens on individuals who have already demonstrated responsibility, training, or lawful authority. **This measured approach respects both constitutional rights and the state’s obligation to protect the public.**

SB 0027 reflects thoughtful policymaking that improves existing law without compromising safety. For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to **issue a favorable vote on SB 0027.**

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Trudy Tibbals

SB 0027 - Regulated Firearms - Seven-Day Waiting P

Uploaded by: Catherine OMalley

Position: UNF

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

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.

SB 27 - MNADV - UNF .pdf

Uploaded by: Laure Ruth

Position: UNF



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**.

Testimony opposing SB0027 - Regulated Firearms -

Uploaded by: Richard KAP Kaplowitz

Position: UNF

01/27/2026

Richard Keith Kaplowitz
Frederick, MD 21703

TESTIMONY ON SB#/0027- POSITION: UNFAVORABLE

Regulated Firearms - Seven-Day Waiting Period – Exceptions

TO: Chair Smith, Jr., Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in opposition to SB#/0027, **Regulated Firearms - Seven-Day Waiting Period – Exceptions**

Despite overwhelming evidence that this bill’s course of action is dangerous, this bill seeks to exempt a sale, rental, or transfer of a regulated firearm from the seven-day waiting period requirement if the purchaser, renter, or receiver of the firearm is a law enforcement officer, a retired law enforcement officer who retired in good standing, or an individual with a permit to wear, carry, or transport a handgun; etc.

Multiple studies have shown *Police Officer Domestic Violence Is A Crisis. It’s Time for States to Take Action*¹ The Scholars Strategy Network report declares

Domestic violence by police officers is a nationwide scourge. While the actual number of cases that happen every year is unknown, it’s likely in the tens of thousands. Police officers in almost every state have been charged with domestic violence since the start of 2025. Such figures demonstrate that police officer domestic violence is a structural failure, not the isolated misconduct of ‘a few bad apples.’

The National Center for Women and Policing has documented the problem.²

Two studies have found that at least 40% of police officer families experience domestic violence, (1, 2) in contrast to 10% of families in the general population.(3) A third study of older and more experienced officers found a rate of 24% (4), indicating that domestic violence is 24 times more common among police families than American families in general. A police department that has domestic violence offenders among its ranks will not effectively serve and protect victims in the community.5, 6, 7, 8 Moreover, when officers know of domestic violence committed by their colleagues and seek to protect them by covering it up, they expose the department to civil liability.7

¹ <https://scholars.org/contribution/police-officer-domestic-violence-crisis-its>

² https://SB0027_RichardKaplowitz_UNF

olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2017R1/Downloads/CommitteeMeetingDocument/132808

SB0027_RichardKaplowitz_UNF

The Brady United Organization has studied the problem of gun violence extensively. They have found that *Firearms are the weapons of choice for domestic violence homicides*³

Given the higher rates of domestic violence committed by police officers and the fact that firearms are the “weapon of choice” it makes little sense to extend these exceptions to the seven day waiting period simply because the person “...is a law enforcement officer, a retired law enforcement officer who retired in good standing, or an individual with a permit to wear, carry, or transport a handgun.”

I respectfully urge this committee to return an unfavorable report on SB#/0027.

³ <https://www.bradyunited.org/resources/research/guns-in-the-hands-of-domestic-abusers-2>