

SB0899_Testimony_2A_Maryland.pdf

Uploaded by: John Josselyn

Position: FAV



2A Maryland

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Senate Bill 0899 Firearms Dealers - Firearm Hold Agreements Favorable

The Maryland State Police wear and carry permit training course contains information on voluntary firearm(s) storage including a link to a gun control advocacy website. This website in turn, lists federally licensed firearms dealers who offer firearm storage services to the public.

Senate Bill 899 seeks to protect these dealers from civil liability for the actions of the firearm owner after the owner retakes possession of the firearm(s). This protection does not apply if the licensee's actions are in violation of the Criminal Procedures Article §6-234 or are otherwise unlawful.

Dealers may be reluctant to provide storage services due to liability concerns. Senate Bill 692 currently pending in this Committee demonstrates that these concerns are not unfounded this type of legislation will only elevate those concerns.

We strongly urge a favorable report on Sente Bill 0899.

Respectfully,

John H. Josselyn
2A Maryland
02/24/2026

Attachments: MDP CCW Training: page 58 of 71.
 MPGV website

Suicide Prevention for Firearm Owners



As a firearm owner, being responsible with your firearm and knowing more about suicide prevention can save lives. One unsecured firearm can put everyone in a household at risk of injury or death, not just the firearm owner. The decision to attempt suicide can happen in a matter of minutes. Being able to recognize a crisis, along with having your firearm properly stored and secured, could be the difference between life and death for yourself or a loved one.

DID YOU KNOW?

45%
of suicides in Maryland involved firearms between 2003 - 2020
(Maryland Violent Death Reporting System, 2023)



The majority of firearm deaths in the US are suicides. There are more firearm suicide deaths than firearm homicides.
(Pew Research Center, 2023)



Unsecured handguns are used in the majority of firearm suicides.
(Death Studies, 2022; Rutgers, 2022)

Suicide is preventable. You can save a life.

1 Be SMART Safety Store Your Firearms

- S** **Secure** all firearms in your home and vehicles
- M** **Model** responsible behavior around guns
- A** **Ask** about unsecured guns in other homes
- R** **Recognize** the role of guns in suicide
- T** **Tell** your peers to Be SMART



2 VOLUNTARY FIREARM STORAGE



If someone is feeling suicidal, has recently attempted suicide, or is experiencing a crisis, remove firearms until the situation improves. Consider storing firearms at a temporary, voluntary external safe storage option.

For more information, visit mdpgv.org/safestoragemap

3 MENTAL HEALTH OR SUBSTANCE USE CRISIS? CALL OR TEXT 988



CONFIDENTIAL AND AVAILABLE 24/7

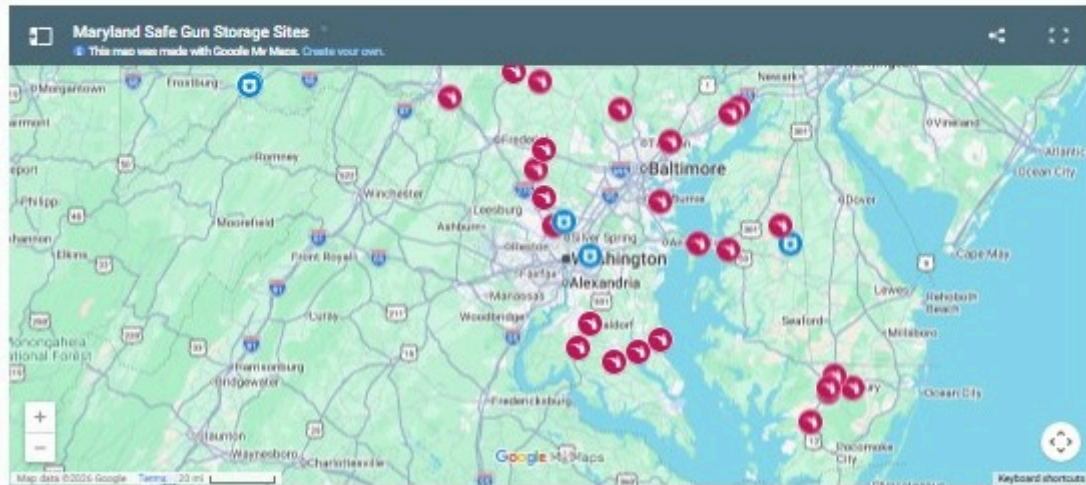
Maryland Department of Health • Behavioral Health Administration
Office of Suicide Prevention | mdh.suicideprevention@maryland.gov | health.maryland.gov/bha/suicideprevention

MARYLAND SAFE STORAGE MAP

About Maryland Gun Storage Options

Temporary, Voluntary Firearm Storage Options (Updated Spring 2024)

This map is designed to help community members find local options for temporary, voluntary firearm storage. Out-of-home gun storage can be particularly beneficial for individuals in crisis at risk of suicide. As of Spring 2024, the businesses and law enforcement agencies listed on this map are willing to consider requests for temporary, voluntary gun storage.



If you're seeking temporary gun storage, we encourage you to contact the listed businesses and law enforcement agencies directly for more information.

If you represent a business or law enforcement agency interested in being added to this map, please email mdsafegunstorage@gmail.com.

Why Do Gun Owners Sometimes Want to Store Firearms Away from Home?

- Someone in the home is experiencing mental health or substance use issues.
- A teenager in the home is in crisis and at risk for suicide.
- The gun owner is traveling out of state and wants to secure firearms while away.
- Grandchildren or young children are visiting for an extended period.
- There is a situation of domestic or partner violence, raising concerns about having a gun in the house.
- The homeowner is listing the home for sale and wants to secure firearms during showings.

The American Association for Suicide Prevention recommends considering temporary off-site storage for firearms when concerned about a loved one. Visit "Firearms and Suicide Prevention" to learn more actions that can save lives.

Where Can Guns Be Stored?

Many places offer gun storage, including gun shops, shooting ranges, police departments, and specialized storage facilities. Pawn shops and self-storage units may also provide storage options. You can view the map to find options in your area.

What Questions Should I Ask When Looking for Storage Options?

Before taking your firearms to a storage location, consider asking:

- The process for storage
- Any costs involved
- Whether a background check is required before retrieving your gun(s)
- Any limits on the duration of storage

Many retailers offer storage on a case-by-case basis. Reach out to them to discuss if they can accommodate your request.

How Should I Bring My Firearm to a Safe Storage Location?

- Always call ahead to arrange a time to bring in your firearms for storage. Do not bring loaded firearms into a gun shop, police station, or other storage locations.
- If you need to leave your firearm in your vehicle while making storage arrangements, lock it in a case and/or store it in a locked compartment of your vehicle, out of sight. Some locations may offer pick-up services; inquire about this when you call.

MD SB 899 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

February 20, 2026

National Rifle Association

11250 Waples Mill Road

Fairfax, VA 22030

Chair Smith and Members of the Committee,

My name is John Weber and I represent the National Rifle Association and our members in Maryland. The NRA supports Senate Bill 899. This legislation provides reasonable civil immunity for federally licensed firearms dealers participating in voluntary firearm hold agreements, protecting them from liability for injuries or deaths after returning firearms to owners.

SB 899 encourages safe, private arrangements where law abiding owners can temporarily store firearms with dealers during times of need without fear of baseless lawsuits. This promotes responsible ownership and public safety without infringing on Second Amendment rights or creating new mandates.

For these reasons, NRA respectfully urges the committee to support Senate Bill 899.

you for your consideration.

John Weber
State Director
NRA-ILA

SB899FirearmHoldAgreements.pdf

Uploaded by: Justin Ready

Position: FAV

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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 18, 2026

Senator Justin Ready
SB 899 – Firearms Dealers – Firearm Hold Agreements

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher and members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee,

Senate Bill 899 would grant federally licensed firearms dealers (FFL) immunity from being held civilly liable for the personal injury or death of a person after the FFL returns a firearm to the owner following the termination of a Firearm Hold Agreement.

Firearm Hold Agreements are private agreements between FFLs and firearm owners where the FFL takes possession of a firearm at the firearm owner's request, holds the firearm for an agreed period of time, and returns the firearm to the firearm owner in accordance with the terms of the agreement. These agreements are somewhat rare; however, they are a necessary tool for responsible firearm owners who may find themselves having thoughts of harming someone or themselves.

Under the current law, in the event of a tragedy, FFLs could be held civilly liable for simply returning the firearm owner's firearm after the firearm hold agreement expires. The immunity liability does not apply to personal injury or death caused by unlawful contact. Additionally, this bill does not apply to firearm transfers in accordance with § 6-234 of the Criminal Procedure Article, which outlines the legal process of court-ordered firearm transfers following disqualifying crimes.

I respectfully request a favorable on SB 899.