

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

**Institute for Legislative Action**

11250 WAPLES MILL ROAD

FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22030



**NRA**

February 23, 2026

National Rifle Association  
11250 Waples Mill Road  
Fairfax, VA 22030

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is John Weber and I represent the National Rifle Association and our members in Maryland. The NRA is opposed to House Bill 1339. This legislation reforms Maryland's Handgun Roster process in ways that introduce political bias, arbitrary decision making, unnecessary bureaucracy, and added costs, with no clear evidence of improved public safety.

First, Maryland already maintains a Handgun Roster under current law. HB 1339 shifts core authority to the Attorney General, an elected official, for legal reviews, potentially injecting partisan politics into what should be a neutral, technical process. This change risks turning roster approvals into a tool for advancing ideological agendas, such as restricting compact or innovative handguns that align with Second Amendment rights but may not fit certain anti-gun narrative, without enhancing safety.

Second, the bill imposes new mandatory testing requirements through the Maryland State Police or accredited labs, forcing petitioners to provide firearms that could be damaged or destroyed in the process. This adds significant expense, potentially thousands of dollars per model in testing fees, legal preparation, and appeals, burdening law abiding gun owners. Petitioners must also navigate extended timelines, additional information demands, and limits on resubmissions, creating massive hurdles for individuals who follow the law while doing nothing to address actual criminal misuse of firearms.

Third, HB 1339 creates further arbitrariness by granting the Attorney General broad discretion in weighing factors like "concealability" or "utility for legitimate purposes," without requiring undue weight on any one, and allowing extensions for "good cause." This could lead to inconsistent, subjective denials based on incomplete allegations or political pressures, eroding due process for petitioners who face appeals only after final decisions. The Board's role is diminished to administrative oversight, reducing the checks and balances even further.

Fourth, these reforms impose real costs on state resources without proven benefits. The Attorney General's office, MSP, and Board will need to handle increased reviews, testing coordination, online publications, and confidentiality protocols, pulling staff from other duties. Departments already face challenges with existing gun regulations; expanding this framework will strain budgets and operations, diverting funds that could support actual crime prevention.

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Finally, by centralizing power in the Attorney General and adding expensive barriers, HB 1339 magnifies the risk of politicized exclusions, limiting Marylanders' access to safe, reliable handguns for self defense and sport. This bill does not fix a documented safety gap, it only makes the process more cumbersome and susceptible to abuse.

In closing, HB 1339 does not meaningfully improve safety. For these reasons, NRA respectfully urges the committee to oppose House Bill 1339.

Thank you for your consideration.

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