

Testimony on HB 1608 – Public Safety – Firearms – Storage Requirements

HB 1608 appears to amend existing law by specifying the use of a fire-safe as an acceptable—or required—method of firearm storage. If the sole purpose of this bill is to change the type of container in which a law-abiding gun owner must store a firearm, then this legislation is unnecessary.

Maryland law already requires that firearms be stored in a manner that prevents access by individuals who are prohibited from possessing them. Lawful gun owners are already complying with these requirements. Rather than enforcing the law as it currently exists, this bill adds additional, more narrowly worded requirements that may create confusion and place new burdens on otherwise compliant citizens.

Instead of continuing to layer new regulations onto responsible firearm owners, the General Assembly should focus on ensuring that existing laws are clearly understood and properly enforced.

For these reasons, I respectfully request an unfavorable report on HB 1608.

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