

Please find **UNFAVORABLE** House Bill 741  
Firearms Dealers and Employees – Required Training and Exam

HB 741 imposes a unique and recurring burden on one narrow industry that is not imposed on other regulated professions in Maryland.

Under this bill, every licensed firearms dealer and every employee who handles or transfers firearms must complete annual state-approved training and pass a written exam, or face civil penalties and potential license consequences. This is not a one-time competency requirement. It is an annual state re-testing mandate.

No comparable retail industry in Maryland is subject to this structure.

\* Liquor licensees are not annually re-examined.

\* Tobacco sellers require no training whatsoever. (Do marijuana sellers?)

\* Even physicians, nurses, and pharmacists, licensed through their respective state boards, are not required to retake a government-authored written exam annually. They complete continuing education, but they are not subjected to recurring state testing as a condition of remaining in practice.

**Annual State-Mandated Training & Examination Requirements**

Category	Firearms Dealers (SB 692) <small>sb0692DealerExam</small>	Physicians	Nurses	Pharmacists	Liquor License Holders	Motor Vehicle Dealers	Pawn Brokers
Initial Licensing Exam	No separate competency exam currently; SB 692 requires training + exam before licensing	Yes (USMLE/COMLEX national exam)	Yes (NCLEX national exam)	Yes (NAPLEX + MPJE)	No written state competency exam	No written state competency exam	No written state competency exam
Annual State-Written Exam	Yes (mandatory)	No	No	No	No	No	No
Annual Training Required	Yes (mandatory)	Continuing Medical Education (CME), not state-written	Continuing education hours	Continuing education hours	Typically alcohol awareness training (varies)	No annual exam; periodic compliance	No annual exam
Applies to All Employees	Yes (any employee handling firearms)	No (only licensed practitioners)	No	No	No	No	No
Administered by Law Enforcement Agency	Yes (Secretary of State Police)	No (professional board)	No (professional board)	No (professional board)	No (local licensing boards)	No	No
Civil Penalty for Noncompliance	Up to \$1,000 per violation <small>sb0692DealerExam</small>	License discipline possible	License discipline possible	License discipline possible	Administrative penalties	Administrative penalties	Administrative penalties
License Denial for Exam Failure	Yes <small>sb0692DealerExam</small>	No annual retest required	No annual retest required 	No annual retest required	No annual retest required	No annual retest required	No annual retest required

HB 741 singles out firearms dealers for a level of recurring oversight that exceeds what Maryland imposes on other regulated businesses, including those handling alcohol, prescription drugs, or controlled substances. When one lawful industry is treated differently from every other similarly situated profession, it raises serious questions about fairness, proportionality, and legislative intent.

Maryland’s firearms dealers are already heavily regulated at both the state and federal levels. There has been no showing that they lack knowledge of the law or that annual written testing would reduce crime. What this bill adds is cost, compliance risk, and a mischievous mechanism for future regulatory expansion. For these reasons, I respectfully urge an unfavorable report on HB 741.

Thomas J. Kasuba (registered Democrat)  
2917 Rosemar Drive  
Ellicott City, MD 21043-3332  
tomkasubamd@netscape.net 301-688-8543 (day)  
February 15, 2026