

Bill Number: HB0126

Bill Title: Regulated Firearms – Seven-Day Waiting Period – Exceptions

Committee: Judiciary

Hearing Date: February 2, 2026

Position: Favor Favor with Amendments Oppose Informational

Testimony Submitted By

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Written Testimony

Chair Jheanelle K. Wilkins, Vice Chair Jessica Fe, and Honorable Members of the Committee:

My name is Kelly Putman Jr, and I am a resident of Upper Marlboro, Maryland. I respectfully submit this written testimony in support of House Bill 126. His bill

House Bill 0126 makes a narrow and reasonable adjustment to Maryland's existing seven-day waiting period for regulated firearms by creating targeted exceptions for individuals who have already undergone extensive vetting by the State. These individuals include law enforcement officers, retired law enforcement officers in good standing, and holders of a valid Maryland handgun wear and carry permit. I submit this testimony in support of HB0126 because it preserves Maryland's public safety framework while eliminating redundant regulatory burdens for individuals who have already demonstrated lawful eligibility to possess and carry firearms.

From a legal standpoint, HB0126 aligns with established constitutional and regulatory principles by ensuring that firearm regulations remain reasonably related to legitimate public safety objectives. Courts have consistently recognized that while states may regulate firearms, such regulations must not impose unnecessary or arbitrary burdens on individuals who are already subject to rigorous background checks, fingerprinting, mental health screening, and ongoing eligibility monitoring. Applying an additional waiting period to law enforcement officers and permit holders—who have already been affirmatively approved by the State—does not meaningfully advance public safety and risks undermining rational-basis consistency and equal protection within Maryland's statutory scheme.

HB0126 maintains the seven-day waiting period for the general public, ensuring that Maryland's broader firearm safety policies remain intact while recognizing that a one-size-fits-all approach is not required where the State already possesses substantial evidence of an individual's suitability. By removing unnecessary delays for vetted individuals, the bill supports lawful self-defense, employment-related firearm needs, and timely firearm replacement in situations involving loss, damage, or credible threats.

Overall, HB0126 improves regulatory efficiency, reinforces confidence in fair and consistent application of the law, and strengthens public trust without compromising public safety.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report on House Bill 126.

Thank you for your time and consideration.