

Please find **UNFAVORABLE** HB 1339
Handgun Roster Reform

This bill modifies and expands Maryland's handgun roster framework; a system that already restricts which handguns law-abiding citizens may purchase. While presented as a consumer protection or safety measure, roster systems function as a **gatekeeping mechanism**, limiting access to commonly owned firearms based on administrative approval rather than criminal misuse.

Roster schemes do not regulate conduct. They regulate product availability. The practical effect is to shrink the lawful marketplace over time as manufacturers discontinue models, decline to submit new models for testing, or choose not to comply with evolving requirements. This results in a gradual erosion of consumer choice and citizen rights without any evidence that such limitations reduce criminal activity or usage safety.

More concerning, HB 1339 strengthens a regulatory structure that can be easily expanded in the future. Once the state maintains an approved-products list:

1. Technical standards can be tightened incrementally and arbitrarily.
2. Administrative bodies can delay or deny listings.
3. Fees and testing requirements can be fancifully increased.
4. Previously lawful models can be removed without adequate justification.

This creates a dynamic where firearm access becomes contingent not on legality, but on bureaucratic whimsy.

History in other jurisdictions shows that roster systems often lead to shrinking availability, fewer market options, and increased costs for lawful purchasers while criminals continue to obtain just as lethal firearms outside legal channels.

HB 1339 does not target violent offenders; it targets compliant citizens and compliant retailers. It expands a regulatory tool that can be arbitrarily adjusted at will, opening the door to future abuse and incremental restrictions that were never openly debated. My idea of handgun roster "reform" is to reform this arcane and rare relic out of existence. For these reasons, I respectfully request an **unfavorable report on HB 1339**.

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