

**HB 820:** Handgun Permits - Special Endorsement for Security Clearance Holders:  
Please vote to **SUPPORT** this bill.

Dear Judiciary Committee:

I am writing to strongly urge you to **SUPPORT HB 820**, *Handgun Permits - Special Endorsement for Security Clearance Holders*.

**HB 820** would add a special endorsement to handgun permits for qualified individuals who hold (or held for at least 10 consecutive years immediately before retirement) a Top Secret/Sensitive Compartmented Information (TS/SCI) security clearance as current or retired federal government employees. This endorsement would allow these permit holders to carry a handgun in locations where law enforcement officers are permitted to do so in the performance of their duties, overriding certain local ordinances or restrictions that might otherwise apply.

This targeted measure is a reasonable and prudent step to recognize the rigorous background investigations, ongoing vetting, and high level of trustworthiness required for TS/SCI clearance holders. These individuals—often involved in national security, intelligence, or defense roles—undergo extensive screening that far exceeds standard permit requirements, making them low-risk and highly responsible. Granting this enhanced privilege aligns with their federal-level clearances and helps ensure they can protect themselves and others in situations where threats may arise due to their work or past service.

Maryland's current handgun permit system already includes thorough checks, but this bill provides a narrow, merit-based exception for a small group of exceptionally vetted citizens without broadly expanding carry rights. It respects public safety while acknowledging the unique circumstances of those who have dedicated their careers to protecting our nation.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask you to **vote in favor of HB 820** and support this commonsense enhancement to our state's firearm laws.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of this important legislation.

Respectfully,

Trudy Tibbals