



State of Maryland
Department of State Police
Government Affairs Unit
Annapolis Office (410) 260-6100

POSITION ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION

DATE: February 25, 2026

BILL NUMBER: House Bill 1339 **POSITION:** Letter of Information

BILL TITLE: Handgun Roster Reform

REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

This legislation seeks to shift primary responsibility for the Handgun Roster Board process from the Maryland Department of State Police (MDSP) to the Attorney General (AG), requiring firearm petitions and test submissions to be sent directly to the AG. The bill further requires all previous firearms approved to be on the Handgun Roster to be retested using a new methodology.

Under current law, the Handgun Roster Board resides within the MDSP and consists of 11 members. This board determines which handguns are approved to be sold in this State. The handgun roster contains a list of 5,083 guns currently approved to purchase in this state as well as a separate list of handguns that are prohibited. The Secretary of State Police is required to adopt regulations necessary to carry out this law. There is also a question of whether the AG can receive regulated firearms in accordance with state and federal law.

House Bill 1339 requires the AG, to evaluate all future petitions for a handgun to be on the handgun roster. The AG in consultation with MDSP and the Board, is also required to reevaluate and retest all firearms currently on the roster—over 5,000 models—by October 1, 2028, using the new standards specified in the bill. Currently, MDSP lacks the facilities, capacity, and records needed to conduct this testing. Many previously approved firearms may no longer be obtainable, and liability for potential damage during testing is unclear. MDSP cannot conduct the required testing and therefore, all firearm testing would need to be outsourced through private laboratories. MDSP would be responsible for issuing contracts and paying vendors with General Funds. Although the bill authorizes collection of fees, it does not give MDSP clear authority to collect them, and all fees collected must be deposited into the General Fund, leaving no dedicated funding for testing or administration.

This legislation also changes the role of the Handgun Roster Board, assigning it audit, compliance, and public education duties despite members lacking audit training, having limited authority, and meeting only quarterly. To meet these new responsibilities, MDSP would need additional staff.

According to Massachusetts data, firearm testing averages approximately \$3,500 per model. Retesting 5,083 models would cost an estimated \$17.8 million over two years (about \$8.9 million annually), with ongoing annual costs of approximately \$420,000 for new submissions.

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Overall, the bill creates significant unfunded operational burdens, staffing needs, legal uncertainties, and major fiscal impacts for MDSP, while limiting the Handgun Roster Board's authority and capacity to effectively carry out its altered responsibilities.

The Maryland Department of State Police respectfully submits this information for your consideration and looks forward to working with the committee on amendments should they wish to move forward with this bill.

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For these reasons, the Maryland Department of State Police urges the Committee to give
___Bill ___ a favorable or unfavorable report.