

Testimony For HB0863

Honorable Delegates

Please enter a favorable report for HB0863.

I support

- Classifying the theft of a firearm as a felony; establishing a penalty for a first conviction for theft of a firearm of imprisonment not exceeding 5 years or a fine not exceeding \$1,000 or both; and
- establishing a penalty for subsequent convictions of imprisonment not exceeding 10 years or a fine not exceeding \$2,500 or both.

I was shocked to find that stealing a firearm was not already a felony.

What is the point of having strict firearm purchasing laws if the criminals can just steal the firearms from the law abiding citizens who went through the long, tedious and expensive process to legally purchase a firearm?

Having the theft of a firearm classified as a misdemeanor provides no real deterrent for the criminal, and I suspect the sentence is often reduced if not waived.

I would like to think classifying the theft of a firearm as a felony, and actually prosecuting the crime to the full extent of the law would help reduce the crime rate in our urban areas. I do not see adopting this bill making it worse.

So please enter a favorable report for HB0863.

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