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Prince George's County

Judiciary Committee

Subcommittees

Family and Juvenile Law

Public Safety



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HB0741: Firearms Dealers and Employees - Required Training and Exam

February 5, 2025

Good afternoon, Madame Chair and fellow members of the Judiciary Committee. For the record, I am Delegate Kym Taylor, representing Prince George's County's District 23.

HB741 strengthens Maryland's "firearms dealer" **oversight system**, by closing a clear gap in our current law. Gun dealers and their employees serve as the frontline gatekeepers for firearm access. Their decisions — often made in real time on a sales floor — directly affect whether guns are diverted into illegal markets or reach individuals at risk of harming themselves or others. Yet, today, Maryland requires only the licensed dealer to complete initial training, not the employees who handle and sell firearms every day. That is the loophole this bill seeks to address.

Under federal law, employees of federal firearms licenses are not required to receive training before handling or selling firearms. Maryland has taken steps through licensing, inspections, and one-time dealer orientation, but we still lack standardized, ongoing training to help identify straw purchasing, trafficking, fraud, or buyers in crisis. HB741 closes that gap by requiring training and a basic written exam for dealers and employees.

This approach is not new. States like California, Colorado, New York, Illinois, and New Jersey have adopted similar standards for firearms retailers. HB741 simply aligns Maryland with common-sense practices already in use across the country.

HB741 is a collaborative bill that establishes **practical training standards** for dealers and employees, strengthens accountability at the point of sale, and helps prevent illegal firearm transfers before they occur. I look forward to continuing to work with the Maryland State Police and stakeholders as the bill moves forward.

For these reasons, Madame Chair, I respectfully ask for a favorable report.