

Maryland Shall Issue®
The Citizens Defense League of Maryland

Maryland Shall Issue® Position Statement

HB-45 - Handgun Permits - Qualifications - Presumption and Burden of Proof - [SUPPORT](#)

Hearing Date February 21st, 1:00pm

Repealing the requirement that the Secretary of State Police base a finding that an applicant for a handgun permit has a good and substantial reason to wear, carry, or transport a handgun on an investigation; establishing a presumption that an applicant for a handgun permit has a good and substantial reason to wear, carry, or transport a handgun for the purposes of qualifying for a handgun permit; and establishing that the Secretary has the burden of specified proof.

HB-430 -Public Safety - Handgun Permits - Repeal of Finding Requirement (Better Maryland - Right of Self Defense) - [SUPPORT](#)

Hearing Date February 21, 1:00pm

Repealing the requirement that the Secretary of State Police find that a person has a good and substantial reason to wear, carry, or transport a handgun before issuing a handgun permit to the person.

HB-488 - Public Safety - Handgun Permits - Repeal of Finding Requirements - [SUPPORT](#)

Hearing Date February 21, 1:00pm

Repealing the requirement that the Secretary of State Police find that a person has a good and substantial reason to wear, carry, or transport a handgun before issuing a handgun permit to the person.

[HB - 1135](#) - Public Safety - Handgun Permits - Qualifications - [SUPPORT](#)

Hearing Date February 21, 1:00pm

Prohibiting the Secretary of State Police from issuing a handgun permit to a person who the Secretary finds is prohibited from possessing a regulated firearm, is an illegal alien, has been discharged from the armed forces of the United States under dishonorable conditions, has a pending charge for a felony or a misdemeanor for which a sentence of imprisonment for more than 1 year may be imposed, or has not completed a firearms safety training course unless a specified ground for exemption applies; etc.

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All four of these bills address the fundamental problem with Maryland's permitting system, the good and substantial clause.

In fact, two of the bills are identical and illustrate the problem with well-intentioned legislators submitting bills without talking to each other or talking with the major gun groups before having them drafted. That however is a discussion for another time.

There are two principles at work here. HB430, HB488 and HB1135 attack the problem by repealing the good and substantial clause altogether. This has been a form of the bill that has been submitted several times and has received votes in committee, but never with a favorable report.

HB-45 approaches the issue through a twist of definitions that forces the State Police to presume that the applicant has a good and substantial reason for the permit unless they can prove otherwise.

While we would have preferred a bill that simply included the term "self-defense" as being an enumerated good and substantial reason, these are the bills that we have and we'll support them with every means available to us.

We're going to ask that you approach these bills from the broad angles rather than getting bogged down in the semantics of the bills.

ACTION PLAN BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE

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Here's What We Need You To Do:

- Contact the members of the House Judiciary Committee listed below.
 - Ask them to vote for a favorable report on HB45, HB430, HB488 and HB1135.
 - Tell them that Maryland is in the distinct minority of states on this issue.
 - Tell them that over 41 states recognize the right of the individual to protect themselves.
 - Tell them that Maryland's system is inherently biased and favors the politically connected.
 - Tell them that it is discriminatory and a violation of civil rights to be denied the fundamental right to self-defense.
 - Tell them that citizens with permits to carry a firearm are demonstrably less likely to commit crimes.
 - Tell them that Maryland is one of the most violent states in the country yet has one of the most restrictive laws with regards to permits.
 - Tell them that states that respect the right of the individual to carry a firearm are safer as a whole.

House Judiciary Committee Contact Information
Continues on Next Page

Dial 1-800-492-7122 + Ext. number

The Honorable "name"
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