

**Maryland Shall Issue<sup>®</sup>**  
The Citizens Defense League of Maryland

**Maryland Shall Issue<sup>®</sup> Position Statement**

**HB-300 - Public Safety - Handgun Permits - Renewal Period For Retired Law Enforcement**

**OPPOSE AS WRITTEN**

**Hearing Date February 21**

Bill Summary:

*Establishing that a handgun permit issued to a retired law enforcement officer of the State or a county or municipal corporation of the State expires on the last day of the holder's birth month following 5 years after the date the permit is issued and may be renewed for successive periods of 5 years each if, at the time of an application for renewal, the applicant possesses the qualifications for the issuance of a permit.*

MSI has long been on record as supporting initiatives that support and protect our men and women in law enforcement and will continue to do so when warranted. HB-300 neither supports nor protects law enforcement. It is, however, an example of political favoritism and it reinforces the notion that certain segments of the population are more deserving of the right to self-defense than others.

As most of you know, the current system for renewal for all permit holders specifies that there is an initial 2 year period of issuance with all subsequent renewals occurring every three years. This bill would seek to extend that to 5 years for every renewal for those that are retired law enforcement.

Retired law enforcement officers already pay no fees for their permits while the cost for everyone else is the third highest in the country over a 40 year time frame. Permits are already issued to retired law enforcement at a higher rate than the population as a whole. Retired and former law enforcement officers can already carry firearms under the provisions of LEOSA.

HB-300 does not affect in any way the above circumstances. It does create an us/them paradigm that puts the majority of Maryland citizens on the outside looking in while well-meaning members of the General Assembly propose bills that have nothing in them for our people.

Maryland already has one of the most inequitable systems of permit issuance in the country with the vast majority of permits already being handed out preferentially to certain populations while the average citizen is left defenseless. MSI cannot support a bill that further engrains these policies.

The fix for this one is simple:  
Five year renewal periods for every permit holder.

**What we need you to do:**

- Be respectful in your communications
- Contact House Judiciary Committee of HB-300 listed below.
- Tell them you can not support HB-300 as written.
- Tell them that all Maryland citizens should be treated equally.
- Tell them that you will support language that makes all permits renewals on a 5 year basis.

**House Judiciary Committee Contact Information  
Continues on Next Page**

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

**The Honorable "name"  
"room number & building"  
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