

My name is Galen Muhammad and I am the State Director of Maryland and Washington, DC for the National African American Gun Association or NAAGA.

I am vehemently opposed to this bill as I often travel to and through Charles County as a law-abiding citizen who is also a concealed carry licensee. While I don't live in Charles County, our national gun club has a Charles County chapter and some of those members have concealed carry licenses. Members of our gun club, others who are also concealed carry licensees and those who seek said license will be barred from conducting business or just traveling from Point A to Point B within Charles County.

As a certified firearms instructor, I also plan to visit my Charles County chapter and their events within the county and train residents of Charles County at locations in the County, with my concealed carry firearms.

This bill gives absolutely no consideration, nor does it mention the fact, that those with the Wear & Carry license are already prohibited from many areas, including sporting events, federal, state, county and city buildings, public transportation, public schools, colleges, post offices AND their parking lots, etc. So, the state gun laws of Maryland already govern where concealed carry permit holders may not carry their firearms. The proposed bill merely seeks to expand up those areas, creating and manufacturing a problem where there isn't one. There is also no evidence of concealed carry permit holders being involved in criminal activity in Charles County. Walking or driving past a prohibited area would be considered a crime if this bill becomes law.

This bill also overlooks the mandatory firearms training that each licensee must attend to be qualified to receive the Wear & Carry license. During this training, we are taught the prohibited areas and that Maryland is NOT a Castle Doctrine state and that we have a duty to retreat, if possible.

I ask that this bill receive an unfavorable report.