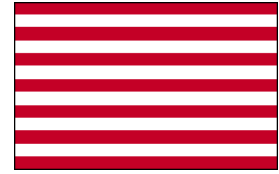


**Maryland Citizens
for the Right to Keep
and Bear Arms**

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March 12, 2001

HB 1172

Edward Patrick, - Philip F. Lee, PhD, - Mark Wilson, LTC, AUS, Ret.

Background.

This bill is identical to SB439 which was heard on 3/6/01 and approved by Judicial Proceedings, but there is no indication the bills are cross filed.

HB 1172 is an attempt to remove from MD judges the ability to decrease sentences imposed for certain crimes that involve a mandatory minimum sentence. Currently, a three judge panel has the ability to decrease sentences. This bill would remove that ability from the judicial panel only for sentences for crimes involving firearms, unless the panel agrees unanimously.

Our Position.

We support this bill to reduce judges ability to reduce sentences for certain crimes, but believe it should be amended to require that the victims of the crime be notified PRIOR to the hearing and that the victim be allowed to provide testimony to the judicial panel.