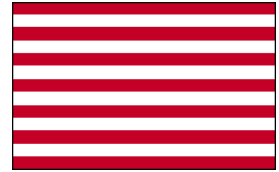


**Maryland Citizens
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March 12, 2001

HB185/SB758

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

We support this bill but we advise that it should be amended to repeal all of last year's SB211.

This Bill's primary goal is to mitigate damage to businesses for a brief time. This relief period would be between three months and 15 months depending on whether the SB211 police training program does actually start prior to 1/1/02. We believe it is likely that the state police will not be ready and the lack of training will also produce another de facto handgun ban in Maryland. To increase the relief period, the bill should be amended to have an effective date of 7/1/01 and should be amended to place positive burden on the police to provide the training required or issue certifications even if they are not ready.

We ask that the safety training by state police for handgun purchases be repealed also since that requirement acts as a prior restraint (infringement) on the right to keep and bear arms which is protected in the U.S. Constitution. It is quite reasonable to require such training as a part of regulating the Militia, however, such training should be accomplished for all citizens in school. We should recognize that people who do not purchase handguns come into contact with them. They need to be able to safely handle handguns as much as those that buy them. So we ask that the bill be amended to require safety training in schools and require completion of such a course for graduation of high school.

We also note that two hours of training are not adequate for new handgun users and insultingly inadequate to those who have handled firearms safely for years. It is a waste of limited police resources that would better save lives devoted to patrolling high crime areas in Baltimore and PG County.

This Bill reduces damage from SB211 only for a brief time and in 15 months (1/1/03) gun manufacturers reluctance to produce internal locks for handguns will again produce the same "de facto handgun ban". We recommend that the internal lock provision of SB211 should be repealed and that this bill be amended to include such a repeal.

The recent news stories concerning the poor performance of trigger locks should have a sobering effect on Maryland legislators. We, the gun owning community, have warned you that such locks will not increase safety. You've ignored our warnings. The ideological fervor with which you ignored our advice will produce damage to our society. Recent recalls of those locks should serve as a lesson to you (see attached news accounts). Ideology is no guarantee of being right. In fact, those most driven by ideology are frequently the most damaging to society. We ask that you show that you've learned the right lesson by repealing the internal lock provision of SB211 and amend this bill to do so.

http://www.lvrj.com/lvrj_home/2000/Oct-11-Wed-2000/news/14582248.html

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

FREE GUN LOCKS: Distribution suspended due to safety concerns

Device, aimed at preventing accidents, may be defective

By **GLENN PUIT, REVIEW-JOURNAL**

A program to distribute free gun locks in Las Vegas and other major cities is now the subject of safety concerns following a report that the devices may be defective.

The Associated Press reported Tuesday that the gun locks can spring open, and that the lock distributor, The National Shooting Sports Foundation, has suspended distribution of the locks until tests on the devices can be performed.

Las Vegas police were among the first in the nation in 1999 to distribute the free locks under a program known as Project Homesafe. The distribution of the locks was aimed at preventing accidental shootings.

In March of this year, the Review-Journal reported that 4,400 of the 5000 locks given to the Police Department had been given out. At the time, the program was hailed by police officials as a major success.

"This is not about fighting crime," Sheriff Jerry Keller said when the program was launched a year ago. "This is about preventing tragedies."

Police Department Sgt. Chris Darcy said police were just made aware of the safety concerns late Tuesday, and police officials were going to review the matter today.

"If there is a safety issue, we will do what is appropriate," Darcy said.

The National Shooting Sports foundation, a trade group based in Connecticut, distributed 400,000 cable locks through more than 300 law enforcement agencies before police in Knoxville and Chattanooga, Tenn., reported the problems last week. Agencies in 360 other communities had signed up for the free program, but the locks were not yet distributed.

The foundation said Tuesday that no more locks will be given out until extensive testing is done.

"We've informed all of the municipalities that have already distributed locks of the potential problem and have asked them to send in a sampling of locks they may still have so that we can do a test," said Robert Delfay, the group's president and chief executive.

Delfay said a decision on whether any of the locks will be recalled will be made after the tests.

The cable locks, which differ from trigger locks, are pulled through gun handles or barrels to prevent the weapon from being fired or loaded. Some of the nation's largest and most violent cities -- Houston, New Orleans, Miami and Philadelphia among them -- participated in the project.

But a Knoxville officer discovered one of the locks would spring open when bounced in his hand. Police found the trait was common after testing the 3,000 locks they had planned to distribute.

Trigger Locks Recalled **MILWAUKEE, 24 July 2000**

Master Lock Co. of Milwaukee has voluntarily recalled about 752,000 gun locks, offering free replacements to customers, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission said Monday.



Master Locks Recalled

The recalled items are described as key-operated, tiger locks for some Smith & Wesson and Walther firearms.

TWO HALVES OF some locks can be manually separated without a key, the commission said in a statement from Washington, D.C. The company, the statement said, reports no consumer complaints of disabled locks because of the problem.

The recalled items are described as key-operated, tiger locks for some Smith & Wesson and Walther firearms. The locks were sold since June 20, 1999, with “Master Lock tough under fire” imprinted on the items’ black rubber pads.

Packaging carries the words: “Made to exclusive Master Lock specifications in China.” A yellow sticker on the items reads: “Warning, do not use on a loaded gun.”

Model numbers on instruction sheets or packaging are 90, 90DSPT, 90KADSPT, 90TSPT, 90DS&W, 90KADS&W and 90TS&W, the commission said.

The locks were sold through Walmart, Kmart, Gander Mountain and Sports Authority for \$8 to \$12, it said.

The commission said consumers can contact the company at 800-944-1380 during daytime business hours and on its Web site.