



**Maryland Citizens  
Defense League**



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Defense League  
PO Box 2035  
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March 12, 2002

RE : SB 81- Handgun Permits - Retired Law Enforcement and Correctional Officers

The Honorable Walter M. Baker  
Chair, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 East Wing  
11 Bladen St.  
Annapolis, MD. 21401-1991

Dear Chair Baker,

We strongly OPPOSE the referenced bill and urge you not to adopt this measure.

The measure demands that the Secretary **shall issue**, upon application, a permit to carry a concealed handgun to retired law enforcement officers and correctional officers.

This bill raises **several serious concerns among the Maryland citizenry** :

1. Upon retirement ex-police and jail guards no longer have police powers and no longer have an obligation to intervene in crimes observed .They no longer NEED to carry a concealed weapon BECAUSE they are RETIRED and no longer participating in the high risk criminal environment that formerly required them to have a firearm on thier person.
2. That being said, clearly this bill seeks to create a SPECIAL CLASS OF PRIVILEGED CITIZEN that has **shall issue** status without having to provide "good and substantial reasons" to carry a concealed handgun like all other Maryland citizens must do.
3. This bill clearly DESCRIMINATES against all other law abiding citizens of Maryland that must demonstrate " good and substantial" reason to carry a concealed handgun. The law abiding citizen must suffer under a **may issue** status completely at the discretion of the Secretary. ( Most neighboring states to Maryland do not participate in such DRACONIAN descrimination) .
4. This bill smacks of FAVORITISM and CRONYISM at its best.
5. This bill is grossly UNFAIR to all Marylanders that hold that self defense is a basic human right and the constitutional right to keep and bear arms is a unique right of ALL AMERICAN PEOPLE.
6. In fact, this bill denies us our Constitutional RIGHT to "equal protection under the law" as written in the : (1. Fourteenth Ammendment- US Constitution. 2. By reference Maryland Declaration of Rights Article 44)
7. A **quick fix** for this INJUSTICE would be ADOPTION of SB 382.

Sincerely,

Dave Dimock  
MCDL Legislative Committee-Member