

SENATE BILL 577

E4

5lr2327
CF 5lr2120

By: **Senator Lam**

Introduced and read first time: January 23, 2025

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Safety – Distribution of Literature to Purchasers of Firearms and**
3 **Ammunition**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Department of Health to prepare certain
5 literature relating to firearms and ammunition and to distribute the literature to all
6 county health departments in the State; requiring each county health department to
7 distribute certain literature to all establishments that sell firearms or ammunition
8 within the county; requiring establishments that sell firearms or ammunition in the
9 State to make certain literature visible and available and to distribute the literature
10 to purchasers of firearms or ammunition; requiring a county health department to
11 authorize a certain representative who may issue citations to owners of
12 establishments who violate this Act; and generally relating to the distribution of
13 literature to purchasers of firearms and ammunition.

14 BY adding to

15 Article – Public Safety

16 Section 5–901 and 5–902 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 9. Distribution of
17 Literature to Purchasers of Firearms and Ammunition”

18 Annotated Code of Maryland

19 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

20 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
21 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

22 **Article – Public Safety**

23 **SUBTITLE 9. DISTRIBUTION OF LITERATURE TO PURCHASERS OF FIREARMS AND**
24 **AMMUNITION.**

25 **5–901.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
2 INDICATED.

3 (B) "AMMUNITION" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 5-133.1 OF THIS TITLE.

4 (C) "FIREARM" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 5-101 OF THIS TITLE.
5 5-902.

6 (A) (1) THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SHALL:

7 (I) PREPARE LITERATURE RELATING TO FIREARMS AND
8 AMMUNITION THAT INCLUDES INFORMATION REGARDING:

- 9 1. FIREARM SAFETY;
- 10 2. FIREARM TRAINING;
- 11 3. SUICIDE PREVENTION;
- 12 4. MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS; AND
- 13 5. CONFLICT RESOLUTION; AND

14 (II) DISTRIBUTE THE LITERATURE TO ALL COUNTY HEALTH
15 DEPARTMENTS IN THE STATE.

16 (2) EACH COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT SHALL DISTRIBUTE THE
17 LITERATURE RECEIVED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION TO ALL
18 ESTABLISHMENTS THAT SELL FIREARMS OR AMMUNITION WITHIN THE COUNTY.

19 (B) AN ESTABLISHMENT THAT RECEIVES LITERATURE UNDER SUBSECTION
20 (A)(2) OF THIS SECTION SHALL:

21 (1) MAKE THE LITERATURE VISIBLE AND AVAILABLE AT THE POINT
22 OF SALE FOR ANY FIREARM OR AMMUNITION PURCHASE; AND

23 (2) DISTRIBUTE THE LITERATURE TO EACH PERSON WHO PURCHASES
24 A FIREARM OR AMMUNITION.

25 (C) (1) EACH COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT SHALL AUTHORIZE A
26 REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COUNTY'S HEALTH DEPARTMENT WHO MAY ISSUE A

1 CITATION TO AN OWNER OF AN ESTABLISHMENT WITHIN THE COUNTY'S
2 JURISDICTION THAT VIOLATES THIS SECTION.

3 **(2) (I) A PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS SECTION IS SUBJECT TO:**

4 **1. FOR A FIRST VIOLATION, A CIVIL PENALTY NOT**
5 **EXCEEDING \$500; AND**

6 **2. FOR A SECOND OR SUBSEQUENT VIOLATION, A CIVIL**
7 **PENALTY NOT EXCEEDING \$1,000.**

8 **(II) A CIVIL PENALTY IMPOSED UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH SHALL**
9 **BE PAID TO THE COUNTY THAT ISSUED THE CITATION UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF**
10 **THIS SUBSECTION.**

11 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
12 October 1, 2025.