



Maryland Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus

The Sportsmen's Best Friend

February 10, 2017

THE HONORABLE BOBBY A. ZIRKIN

Chair, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
Honorable Members

THE HONORABLE JOSEPH F. VALLARIO, JR.

Chair, House Judiciary Committee
Honorable Members

OPPOSITION: Firearms Disqualifications – Antique Firearm (SB 467/HB 318)

The bi-partisan Maryland Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus opposes Senate Bill 467/House Bill 318 (Firearms Disqualifications – Antique Firearms) – which are scheduled for a public hearing on March 8, 2017 and March 14, 2017, respectively – for reasons stated herein.

The Caucus has been besieged by Maryland's hunting community, via the Maryland Hunting Coalition, which stands united in its opposition to Senate Bill 467/House Bill 318. In short, these companion bills would repeal the current exemption – set forth in § 4-201 of the Criminal Law Article – afforded the ownership of muzzle loading firearms. Muzzle loading firearms are the preferred hunting firearm of a major segment of Maryland's hunting community, reminiscent of early America when they were the only gun types available for self-defense and the hunting of game.

We see no other rationale for these particular gun bills other than it being punitive in nature. For this reason and more, the Caucus respectfully urges an unfavorable report.

Sincerely,

Senator Astle, Senate Co-Chair

Delegate Wendell Beitzel, House Co-Chair

Cc:

Honorable Members, Maryland Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus