

*Cans
Maryland*

THE RESPONSIBLE GUN SAFETY ACT (SB211/HB279)

We all have a responsibility to protect our children. We must take a specific, realistic and aggressive approach for reducing the danger to our children posed by guns.

- ✓ The Responsible Gun Safety Act (SB211/HB279) requires by January 1, 2002 any new handguns sold in Maryland to be equipped with an integrated mechanical safety device to prevent children and other unauthorized users from firing the handgun.
- ✓ The Administration bill will require that a person may not sell or offer for sale in Maryland a handgun manufactured after May 31, 2003 unless it is manufactured with incorporated design technology allowing the handgun to be fired only by authorized users, if such technology is commercially available.
- ✓ The Responsible Gun Safety Act will enhance existing gun laws and increase enforcement to protect children by placing a mandatory minimum sentence of 5 years for the illegal possession of a firearm by a felon previously convicted for a violent crime or drug offense. This penalty is similar to the federal penalty used by federal prosecutors in Project Disarm and Project Exile.
- ✓ The Responsible Gun Safety Act provides "CeaseFire" grant funds to enforce existing gun laws and innovative local law enforcement initiatives and programs, such as the Federal DISARM Program and Baltimore City's Firearms Investigation and Violence Enforcement Unit.
- ✓ The Responsible Gun Safety Act will also prohibit any person who as a juvenile committed a violent delinquent act from possessing a handgun until age 30.
- ✓ The Administration bill requires that all guns seized, confiscated and subject to forfeiture to or by any law enforcement agencies in the State shall be destroyed or retained for the official law enforcement use.
- ✓ The bill requires ballistics fingerprinting of all new handguns prior to sale. Firearm dealers will be required to collect and provide certain handgun identification information to the Maryland State Police.
- ✓ Under SB211/HB279, the Police Training Commission will be required to develop gun safety standards. By January 1, 2002, all gun purchasers will be required to submit evidence of certified firearms safety training.
- ✓ Starting in tax year 2000, the Administration bill (SB209/HB280) provides for a tax credit for the purchase of gun safes/vaults and locking devices for all firearms. (contingent on the passage of the Responsible Gun Safety Act)

This proposed legislation is based on the recommendations of the Governor's Task Force on Childproof Guns.