



Legislation Text

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Support for Anne Arundel County's Free Gun Locks Program - For the purpose of expressing Council support for Anne Arundel County's first in-the-state pilot program providing up to two gun locks to adult county residents.

**CITY COUNCIL OF THE
City of Annapolis**

Resolution 27-23

Introduced by: Alderwoman Pindell Charles
Co-sponsored by: Ald. Arnett, Ald. Finlayson, Ald. O'Neill, Ald. Tierney,
Ald. Savidge, Ald. Gay

A **RESOLUTION** concerning

Support for Anne Arundel County's Free Gun Locks Program

FOR the purpose of expressing Council support for Anne Arundel County's first in-the-state pilot program providing up to two gun locks to adult county residents.

WHEREAS, Anne Arundel County Executive Steuart Pittman announced a new pilot program on April 13, 2023, that makes up to two free gun locks available to adult residents at select library locations in the county; and

WHEREAS, County Executive Pittman, in recent remarks about the program, noted that "While state law preempts local jurisdictions from imposing certain gun restrictions, this program is one of the ways we are working to save lives by mitigating the risk of gun violence," and

WHEREAS, Dr. Tonii Gedin, Acting Health Officer for Anne Arundel County, said, "Gun violence is a public health issue, not a political one. It is an epidemic that needs to be addressed with research and evidence-based strategies that can reduce deaths and injuries."; and

WHEREAS, The American Medical Association estimated that approximately 4.6 million children in the United States live in a home with at least one unlocked and loaded firearm, and in 2022 there were at least 353 unintentional shootings involving children, resulting in 156 deaths and 212 injuries nationally; and

WHEREAS, Anne Arundel County Public Library CEO Skip Auld, in his comments on the program, indicated that "The library is a trusted community institution where residents can count on

accurate information, high-quality educational tools and helpful resources,” and

WHEREAS, Anne Arundel County received money from the program through a grant from the Maryland Governor's Office of Crime, Prevention and Youth Victim Services; and

WHEREAS, To participate in the free gun lock program, Anne Arundel County residents who are 18 or older need to visit one of three participating county libraries, Glen Burnie Library, Eastport-Annapolis Neck Library, and Michael E. Busch Annapolis Library, and they must have a valid ID to receive up to two of the 4,500 available gun locks; and

WHEREAS, In addition to receiving a gun lock, gun owners will receive manufacturer instructions on how to use the gun lock and a Gun Violence Intervention Team (GVIT) bookmark with a link to helpful information about safe gun storage, suicide prevention resources and other valuable information;

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ANNAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL that the City of Annapolis expresses its support for the Anne Arundel County's first in-the-state pilot program providing up to two gun locks to adults who live in Anne Arundel County;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE ANNAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL that the Council encourages Annapolis residents to participate in the Anne Arundel County free gun lock program since the City of Annapolis is in Anne Arundel County.