

While it is certainly appropriate to integrate law enforcement officers or other members of the community into this type of instruction, or in the teaching of any subject, the flexibility given to a county board to teach this subject "in conjunction" with another entity goes too far.

Throughout this process, teachers and school administrators have raised concerns about the demands that requiring gun safety education would place on the schools and the teachers. For the most part, however, I believe these professionals would have accepted the responsibility that would have accompanied the implementation of earlier versions of this bill. Provisions in the final version of the bill, particularly the removal of the gun safety program from the health education curriculum in favor of the establishment of a separate program, the potential involvement of outside entities, and the probability of organizing field trips to shooting ranges, have prompted teachers and administrators to request a veto of this bill.

The goal of teaching children about the inherent danger associated with firearms is a laudable one. I sincerely appreciate the efforts of the sponsors and gun safety advocates to develop a gun safety education program. Unfortunately, the final version of the bill does not create the type of program that should be used in our schools. I look forward to working with the sponsor and the advocates to craft a bill that meets the concerns expressed in this letter.

For the above reasons, I have vetoed Senate Bill 124.

Sincerely,  
Parris N. Glendening  
Governor

### Senate Bill No. 124

AN ACT concerning

#### **John Joseph Price Gun Safety Education - Public Schools - Firearms Safety and Accident Prevention Education Program**

FOR the purpose of ~~creating a certain gun safety education program in public schools; requiring the State Department of Education to establish certain guidelines; requiring local school boards to develop a certain curriculum~~ requiring the State Board of Education to establish policy and guidelines for a certain firearms safety and accident prevention program for certain students to be implemented by each county board of education; requiring each county board to implement the program; authorizing a county board to implement the program in conjunction with certain entities; making a stylistic change; prohibiting the display or handling of ammunition or firearms in certain programs under certain circumstances; authorizing the display or handling of ammunition or firearms in certain programs under certain circumstances; and generally relating to ~~a gun safety~~ the firearms safety and accident prevention education program in public schools in the State.

BY adding to  
Article — Education