



Virginia Citizens Defense League, Inc.

P.O. Box 513, Newington, VA 22122 • 804-639-0600 • president@vcdl.org • vcdl.org

May 22, 2018

Dear Faith Leader or concerned citizen,

The attached letter from Delegate Dave LaRock lays out the problems we have here in Virginia with a 140-year-old Blue law that makes it harder for places of worship to provide their own security as they see fit. The law allows a judge free rein to second-guess whether a place of worship has a legal security plan during a service.

Quite simply, why should the Commonwealth dictate to a private property owner (place of worship) how they handle their security at certain times of the day (during a service)?

The Virginia Citizens Defense League (VCDL), working in conjunction with Delegate LaRock and other legislators, is going to push to repeal the antiquated law (18.2-283) next year.

Repealing 18.2-283 *does not take away the ability of a place of worship to control firearms on its property however it chooses.* But the repeal does make it easier to implement a consistent security plan.

WE ARE NOT LOOKING FOR MONEY, just a ton of emails going to legislators and the Governor!

If you wish to help with this repeal or to get more information, simply go to this web page:

http://vcdl.org/repeal_church_ban

Thank you for your help!

Sincerely,

Philip Van Cleave
President

-----Defending your right to defend yourself-----



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

HOUSE OF DELEGATES
RICHMOND

DAVE LaROCK
POST OFFICE BOX 6
HAMILTON, VIRGINIA 20159

THIRTY-THIRD DISTRICT

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:
EDUCATION
TRANSPORTATION
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

March 2, 2018

Dear Faith Leader,

In the wake of yet another school shooting and increasing violence in churches, many leaders across the country are re-evaluating their security plans. Hopefully this letter will clarify what options are available to you as you plan what you feel is best for your place of worship.

There is quite a bit of misunderstanding in Virginia over a vague and subjective law dating back 140 years, which states, *"If any person carries any gun, pistol, bowie knife, dagger or other dangerous weapons, without good and sufficient reason, to a place of worship while a meeting for religious purposes is being held at such place he shall be guilty of a Class 4 misdemeanor."* I'll call this existing law the "Church Service Ban."

First, I draw your attention to the period of time, "...while a meeting for religious purposes is being held...". While this is somewhat clear, it complicates how a plan could be formed that might include a weapon. Second, the exception, "...without good and sufficient reason..." is wide open to interpretation. I've seen two Virginia Attorney Generals' Opinions which attempt to clarify. If your place of worship is on private property, current Virginia law allows you, as a private property owner, the final say on who is and who is not allowed to bring a weapon onto your private property. The Church Service Ban is a separate law which arbitrarily restricts your private property rights, "...while a meeting for religious purposes is being held..."

I have proposed repealing the "Church Service Ban" to remove the uncertainty and to help facilitate good planning. Repealing this would assure that those responsible for places of worship are allowed to control their own private property. With this Church Service Ban you are limited in your decision-making authority while you still have responsibility to protect those who enter your property.

Banning weapons severely limits a place of worship's ability to form an effective plan to deal with an intruder who intended to harm other people. A potential intruder may well be deterred by knowledge that a place of worship is secure.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would be willing to write a short letter of support to help restore your property rights by repealing the Church Service Ban.

Thank you for your great work in our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dave LaRock".

David A. LaRock
Virginia House of Delegates, 33rd District