

Chapter 455

(Senate Bill 331)

AN ACT concerning

Public Safety – Handgun Permits – Expiration and Renewal Periods for Retired Law Enforcement Officer

FOR the purpose of establishing alternative expiration and renewal periods for a handgun permit issued to a certain retired law enforcement officer; and generally relating to handgun permits.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Public Safety
Section 5–301(a) and (c) and 5–304(b)(1) and (d)(2)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Public Safety
Section 5–309
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Public Safety

5–301.

(a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

(c) “Permit” means a permit issued by the Secretary to carry, wear, or transport a handgun.

5–304.

(b) (1) Subject to subsections (c) and (d) of this section, the Secretary may charge a nonrefundable fee payable when an application is filed for a permit.

(d) The Secretary may not charge a fee under subsection (b) of this section to:

(2) a retired law enforcement officer of the State or a county or municipal corporation of the State.

5-309.

(a) Except as provided in [subsection] **SUBSECTIONS (d) AND (E)** of this section, a permit expires on the last day of the holder's birth month following 2 years after the date the permit is issued.

(b) [Subject] **EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS SECTION AND SUBJECT** to subsection (c) of this section, a permit may be renewed for successive periods of 3 years each if, at the time of an application for renewal, the applicant possesses the qualifications for the issuance of a permit and pays the renewal fee stated in this subtitle.

(c) A person who applies for a renewal of a permit is not required to be fingerprinted unless the Secretary requires a set of the person's fingerprints to resolve a question of the person's identity.

(d) The Secretary may establish an alternative expiration date for a permit to coincide with the expiration of a license, certification, or commission for:

(1) a private detective under Title 13 of the Business Occupations and Professions Article;

(2) a security guard under Title 19 of the Business Occupations and Professions Article; or

(3) a special police officer under § 3-306 of this article.

(E) A PERMIT ISSUED TO A RETIRED LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER WHO RETIRED IN GOOD STANDING FROM SERVICE WITH A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY OF THE STATE OR A COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF THE STATE:

(1) EXPIRES ON THE LAST DAY OF THE HOLDER'S BIRTH MONTH FOLLOWING 5 YEARS AFTER THE DATE THE PERMIT IS ISSUED; AND

(2) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, MAY BE RENEWED FOR SUCCESSIVE PERIODS OF 5 YEARS EACH IF, AT THE TIME OF AN APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL, THE APPLICANT POSSESSES THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE ISSUANCE OF A PERMIT.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2026.

Approved by the Governor, May 12, 2026.