

SENATE BILL 677

E4

6lr3024

By: **Senator Folden**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2026

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Safety – Handgun Permits – Firearms Training Course**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the requirements for a certain firearms training course that
4 an applicant for a permit to wear, carry, or transport a handgun must successfully
5 complete; and generally relating to permits to wear, carry, and transport handguns.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
7 Article – Public Safety
8 Section 5–306(a)
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
12 Article – Public Safety
13 Section 5–306(a–1)
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

18 **Article – Public Safety**

19 5–306.

20 (a) Subject to subsections (c) and (d) of this section, the Secretary shall issue a
21 permit within a reasonable time to a person who the Secretary finds:

22 (1) (i) is at least 21 years old; or

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(ii) is a person who is a member of the uniformed services or the National Guard;

(2) (i) has not been convicted of a felony or of a misdemeanor for which a sentence of imprisonment for more than 1 year has been imposed; or

(ii) if convicted of a crime described in item (i) of this item, has been pardoned or has been granted relief under 18 U.S.C. § 925(c);

(3) has not been convicted of a crime involving the possession, use, or distribution of a controlled dangerous substance;

(4) is not on supervised probation for:

(i) conviction of a crime punishable by imprisonment for 1 year or more;

(ii) a violation of § 21–902(b) or (c) of the Transportation Article; or

(iii) violating a protective order under § 4–509 of the Family Law Article;

(5) is not presently an alcoholic, addict, or habitual user of a controlled dangerous substance unless the habitual use of the controlled dangerous substance is under legitimate medical direction;

(6) does not suffer from a mental disorder as defined in § 10–101(i)(2) of the Health – General Article and have a history of violent behavior against the person or another;

(7) has not been involuntarily admitted for more than 30 consecutive days to a facility as defined in § 10–101 of the Health – General Article;

(8) is not a respondent against whom:

(i) a current non ex parte civil protective order has been entered under § 4–506 of the Family Law Article;

(ii) a current extreme risk protective order has been entered under § 5–601 of this title; or

(iii) any other type of current court order has been entered prohibiting the person from purchasing or possessing firearms;

(9) except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, has successfully completed prior to application and each renewal, a firearms training course approved by

1 the Secretary that meets the minimum criteria specified in subsection (a–1) of this section;
2 and

3 (10) based on an investigation:

4 (i) has not exhibited a propensity for violence or instability that may
5 reasonably render the person's possession of a handgun a danger to the person or to
6 another; and

7 (ii) is not otherwise prohibited by State or federal law from
8 purchasing or possessing a handgun.

9 (a–1) The firearms training course required under subsection (a) of this section shall
10 include:

11 (1) (i) for an initial application, a minimum of 16 hours of in–person
12 instruction by a qualified handgun instructor; or

13 (ii) for a renewal application, 8 hours of in–person instruction by a
14 qualified handgun instructor;

15 (2) classroom instruction on:

16 (i) State and federal firearm laws, including laws relating to:

17 1. self–defense;

18 2. defense of others;

19 3. defense of property;

20 4. [the safe storage of firearms;

21 5. the circumstances under which an individual becomes
22 prohibited from possessing a firearm under State and federal law, including becoming a
23 respondent against whom:

24 A. a current non ex parte civil protective order has been
25 entered under § 4–506 of the Family Law Article;

26 B. an order for protection, as defined in § 4–508.1 of the
27 Family Law Article, has been issued by a court of another state or a Native American tribe
28 and is in effect; or

29 C. a current extreme risk protective order has been entered
30 under Subtitle 6 of this title;

6. the requirements and options for surrendering, transferring, or otherwise disposing of a firearm after becoming prohibited from possessing a firearm under State or federal law;

7. the requirements for reporting a loss or theft of a firearm to a law enforcement agency as required by § 5–146 of this title;

8. the firearms and firearm accessories which are banned under State and federal law;

9. the types of firearms that require a special permit or registration to acquire or possess under State or federal law;

10. the law prohibiting straw purchases;

11.] the law concerning armed trespass under § 6–411 of the Criminal Law Article; and

[12.] 5. the locations where a person is prohibited from possessing a firearm regardless of whether the person possesses a permit issued under this subtitle;

[(ii) home firearm safety;

(iii) handgun mechanisms and operations;]

(II) FIREARM TRAINING, INCLUDING:

1. HANDGUN NOMENCLATURE AND SELECTING A HANDGUN FOR SELF-DEFENSE;

2. AMMUNITION KNOWLEDGE AND DEFENSIVE AMMUNITION SELECTION;

3. BASIC DEFENSIVE HANDGUN SKILLS;

4. DRAWING A HANDGUN FROM CONCEALMENT;

5. LOADING AND STOPPAGE REMEDIATION;

6. MINDSET, INCLUDING RESPONDING TO AN ATTACK AND THE AFTERMATH OF AN ATTACK;

7. HANDGUN CONCEALMENT AND CARRY MODES;

1 **8. HOME FIREARM SAFETY; AND**

2 **9. SAFE FIREARM STORAGE, CLEANING, AND**
3 **MAINTENANCE;**

4 [(iv)] **(III)** conflict de-escalation and resolution;

5 [(v)] **(IV)** anger management; and

6 [(vi)] **(V)** suicide prevention; and

7 (3) a firearm qualification component that includes live-fire shooting
8 exercise on a firing range and requires the applicant to demonstrate:

9 (i) safe handling of a handgun; and

10 (ii) shooting proficiency with a handgun.

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