

HOUSE BILL 676

E4
HB 538/21 – JUD

2lr0886
CF 2lr2532

By: **Delegates Hartman, Adams, Anderton, Arentz, Arikan, Beitzel, Boteler, Buckel, Chisholm, Cox, Griffith, Hornberger, Howard, Jacobs, Kipke, Kittleman, Krebs, Mangione, Mautz, McComas, McKay, Munoz, Otto, Parrott, Reilly, Rose, Shoemaker, Szeliga, Thiam, and Wivell**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2022

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Handgun Permits – Qualifications – High-Risk Occupations**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Secretary of State Police to issue a certain permit to carry,
4 wear, or transport a handgun to a person who meets certain requirements and is
5 employed in a certain profession; and generally relating to permits to carry, wear, or
6 transport a handgun.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 Article – Public Safety
9 Section 5–306(a)
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

14 **Article – Public Safety**

15 5–306.

16 (a) Subject to subsection (c) of this section, the Secretary shall issue a permit
17 within a reasonable time to a person who the Secretary finds:

18 (1) is an adult;

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

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

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

8 (5) except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, has successfully
9 completed prior to application and each renewal, a firearms training course approved by
10 the Secretary that includes:

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

13 2. for a renewal application, 8 hours of instruction by a
14 qualified handgun instructor;

15 (ii) classroom instruction on:

16 1. State firearm law;

17 2. home firearm safety; and

18 3. handgun mechanisms and operation; and

19 (iii) a firearms qualification component that demonstrates the
20 applicant's proficiency and use of the firearm; and

21 (6) based on an investigation:

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

25 (ii) 1. has good and substantial reason to wear, carry, or
26 transport a handgun, such as a finding that the permit is necessary as a reasonable
27 precaution against apprehended danger; **OR**

28 2. **IS EMPLOYED AS:**

29 **A. A CORRECTIONAL OFFICER;**

- 1 **B.** A PAROLE AND PROBATION OFFICER;
- 2 **C.** A PAID OR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER;
- 3 **D.** A PAID OR VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY MEDICAL
4 TECHNICIAN;
- 5 **E.** A RESCUE SQUAD MEMBER;
- 6 **F.** A SECURITY GUARD FOR A CHURCH OR RELIGIOUS
7 ORGANIZATION;
- 8 **G.** A PHYSICIAN;
- 9 **H.** A PHYSICIAN’S ASSISTANT;
- 10 **I.** A NURSE; OR
- 11 **J.** A NURSE PRACTITIONER.

12 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
13 October 1, 2022.