MARYLAND STATE POLICE

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Firearms Legislation Passed During 2026 Maryland General Assembly Session

June 1, 2026

In accordance with Public Safety Article §5-147 (b), The Maryland Department of State Police (MDSP) is providing the following summary of each new law or change to each existing law pertaining to firearms that was passed by the General Assembly during the 2026 legislative session, held January 14 - April 13, 2026. The law requires this summary to be provided to each Email address on file with the MDSP, that is associated with the purchaser or transferee of a regulated firearm or a person who has registered a regulated firearm with the Department, within 45 days after the General Assembly adjourns Sine Die in a legislative session. Additionally, a notification will be sent 30 days prior to the effective date of any act. The following is a summary of all bills with references to "Firearms" passed by the Maryland General Assembly, 2026 legislative session:

SB0160 / HB0284 - Public Safety - Licensed Firearms Dealers - Notification Regarding Compromising Events

This bill requires a licensed firearms dealer to notify the Secretary of State Police within 24 hours after the dealer first has knowledge that (1) there has been a burglary, attempted burglary, robbery, or theft involving a firearm or ammunition at the premises on which the licensed dealer operates or where firearms are stored or (2) a required security feature has been compromised, as specified. The required notice is in addition to any report made to the local law enforcement agency or the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. A violator is subject to civil penalties as specified in the bill. ***The bill takes effect October 1, 2026***.

Public Safety Article 5-145.1

(B) (1) A LICENSED DEALER SHALL NOTIFY THE SECRETARY WITHIN 24 HOURS AFTER THE DEALER FIRST HAS KNOWLEDGE THAT:

(I) THERE HAS BEEN A BURGLARY, ATTEMPTED BURGLARY, ROBBERY, OR THEFT INVOLVING A FIREARM OR AMMUNITION AT THE PREMISES ON WHICH THE LICENSED DEALER OPERATES OR WHERE FIREARMS ARE STORED; OR

(II) A SECURITY FEATURE REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (A)(1) OF THIS SECTION HAS BEEN COMPROMISED, INCLUDING:

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1. THE FAILURE OF EQUIPMENT TO FILM AND RECORD VIDEO FOOTAGE UNDER SUBSECTION (A)(1)(I) OF THIS SECTION;

2. THE FAILURE OF A FEATURE TO PREVENT UNAUTHORIZED ENTRY UNDER SUBSECTION (A)(1)(II) OF THIS SECTION;

3. THE FAILURE OF A BURGLARY ALARM SYSTEM TO ALLOW FOR MONITORING UNDER SUBSECTION (A)(1)(III) OF THIS SECTION; OR

4. THE FAILURE OF A PHYSICAL BARRIER TO PREVENT A BREACH, IF UTILIZED UNDER SUBSECTION (A)(1)(IV) OF THIS SECTION.

(2) THE NOTICE REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION IS IN ADDITION TO ANY REPORT MADE TO THE LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY OR THE BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES.

(C) (1) This subsection does not apply if the equipment or alarm system became temporarily inoperable at no fault of the licensed dealer.

(2) A person who violates this section is subject to a civil penalty IMPOSED BY THE SECRETARY:

(I) FOR A FIRST VIOLATION, NOT EXCEEDING $250; AND

(II) FOR A SECOND OR SUBSEQUENT VIOLATION, not exceeding $1,000.

<u>SB0331 / HB0094 - Public Safety - Handgun Permits - Expiration and Renewal Periods for Retired Law Enforcement Officer</u>

This bill alters the expiration and renewal periods for a handgun permit issued to a retired law enforcement officer who retired in good standing from a law enforcement agency of the State or a county or municipal corporation of the State. The handgun permit expires on the last day of the holder's birth month following five years after the date the permit is issued and may be renewed for successive periods of five years each if, at the time of an application for renewal, the applicant possesses the qualifications for the issuance of a permit. ***This bill takes effect October 1, 2026.***

Public Safety Article 5-309(E)

(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

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(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.

SB0334 - Criminal Law - Firearm Crimes - Machine Gun Convertible Pistols

This bill (1) with specified exceptions, prohibits a person from manufacturing, selling, offering for sale, purchasing, receiving, or transferring a "machine gun convertible pistol" beginning January 1, 2027, and (2) alters the definition of a rapid fire activator to include a "pistol converter." As a result of expanded application of an existing penalty, a violator is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for up to three years and/or a $5,000 maximum fine. A person who lawfully obtained and possesses a machine gun convertible pistol may sell or otherwise transfer the machine gun convertible pistol to an "immediate family member" who is not prohibited under federal or State law from possessing a firearm, and the immediate family member may purchase or otherwise receive a machine gun convertible pistol from the immediate family member who lawfully obtained the pistol. The Department of State Police shall adopt regulations to implement the bill's provisions, and develop a list of prohibited machine gun convertible pistols. ***This bill takes effect October 1, 2026.***
Criminal Law Article 4-301

(H) "COMMON HOUSEHOLD TOOL" INCLUDES A SCREWDRIVER, A PIPE WRENCH, PLIERS, A HACKSAW, A CROWBAR, AN ELECTRIC DRILL, A ROTARY TOOL, A HAMMER, A CHISEL, A FILE, AND A CRESCENT WRENCH.

(J) "CRUCIFORM TRIGGER BAR" MEANS A COMPONENT IN A SEMIAUTOMATIC PISTOL THAT:

(1) SERVES AS A LINK BETWEEN THE TRIGGER AND THE FIRING PIN; AND

(2) HAS ITS SEAR INCORPORATED INTO A CROSS–SHAPED SURFACE.

(O) (1) "MACHINE GUN CONVERTIBLE PISTOL" MEANS ANY SEMIAUTOMATIC PISTOL WITH A CRUCIFORM TRIGGER BAR THAT CAN BE READILY CONVERTED BY HAND OR BY USING COMMON HOUSEHOLD TOOLS INTO A MACHINE GUN BY THE INSTALLATION OR ATTACHMENT OF A PISTOL CONVERTER AS A REPLACEMENT FOR THE SLIDE'S BACKPLATE.

(2) "MACHINE GUN CONVERTIBLE PISTOL" INCLUDES A SEMIAUTOMATIC PISTOL DESCRIBED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER A TAB OR OTHER PIECE OF MATERIAL IS LOCATED ON THE REAR PORTION OF THE PISTOL FRAME TO BLOCK THE ATTACHMENT OF A PISTOL CONVERTER, IF THE TAB OR OTHER PIECE OF MATERIAL CAN BE READILY REMOVED WITH A COMMON HOUSEHOLD TOOL.

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(3) "MACHINE GUN CONVERTIBLE PISTOL" DOES NOT INCLUDE A HAMMER–FIRED SEMIAUTOMATIC PISTOL OR A STRIKER–FIRED SEMIAUTOMATIC PISTOL WITHOUT A CRUCIFORM TRIGGER BAR.

(P) (1) "PISTOL CONVERTER" MEANS ANY DEVICE OR INSTRUMENT THAT, WHEN INSTALLED IN OR ATTACHED TO THE REAR OF THE SLIDE OF A SEMIAUTOMATIC PISTOL, REPLACES THE BACKPLATE AND INTERFERES WITH THE TRIGGER MECHANISM, WHICH ENABLES THE PISTOL TO SHOOT AUTOMATICALLY MORE THAN ONE SHOT BY A SINGLE FUNCTION OF THE TRIGGER.

(Q) (1) "Rapid fire activator" means any device, including a removable manual or power–driven activating device, constructed so that, when installed in or attached to a firearm:

(i) the rate at which the trigger is activated increases; or

(ii) the rate of fire increases.

(2) "Rapid fire activator" includes a bump stock, trigger crank, hellfire trigger, binary trigger system, burst trigger system, switch/auto–sear, PISTOL CONVERTER, or a copy or a similar device, regardless of the producer or manufacturer.

4–302.

This subtitle does not apply to:

(3) possession, importation, manufacture, receipt for manufacture, shipment for manufacture, storage, purchases, sales, and transport to or by a licensed firearms dealer or manufacturer who is:

(i) providing or servicing an assault weapon, A detachable magazine, OR A MACHINE GUN CONVERTIBLE PISTOL for a law enforcement unit or for personnel exempted under item (1) of this section;

(ii) acting to sell or transfer an assault weapon, A detachable magazine, OR A MACHINE GUN CONVERTIBLE PISTOL to a licensed firearm dealer in another state or to an individual purchaser in another state through a licensed firearms dealer; or

(iii) acting to return to a customer in another state an assault weapon OR A MACHINE GUN CONVERTIBLE PISTOL transferred to the licensed firearms dealer or manufacturer under the terms of a warranty or for repair;

(4) organizations that are required or authorized by federal law governing their specific business or activity to maintain assault weapons and applicable ammunition, detachable magazines, AND MACHINE GUN CONVERTIBLE PISTOLS;

(5) the receipt of an assault weapon, A detachable magazine, OR A MACHINE GUN CONVERTIBLE PISTOL by inheritance, and possession of the inherited assault weapon, detachable magazine, OR MACHINE GUN CONVERTIBLE PISTOL, if the decedent lawfully possessed the assault weapon, detachable magazine,

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OR MACHINE GUN CONVERTIBLE PISTOL and the person inheriting the assault weapon, detachable magazine, OR MACHINE GUN CONVERTIBLE PISTOL is not otherwise disqualified from possessing a regulated firearm;

(6) the receipt of an assault weapon, A detachable magazine, OR A MACHINE GUN CONVERTIBLE PISTOL by a personal representative of an estate for purposes of exercising the powers and duties of a personal representative of an estate;

(7) possession by a person who is retired in good standing from service with a law enforcement agency of the State or a local unit in the State and is not otherwise prohibited from receiving an assault weapon, detachable magazine, OR MACHINE GUN 23 CONVERTIBLE PISTOL if:

(i) the assault weapon, detachable magazine, OR MACHINE GUN CONVERTIBLE PISTOL is sold or transferred to the person by the law enforcement agency on retirement; or

(ii) the assault weapon, detachable magazine, OR MACHINE GUN CONVERTIBLE PISTOL was purchased or obtained by the person for official use with the law enforcement agency before retirement;

(10) THE TEMPORARY TRANSFER OF A MACHINE GUN CONVERTIBLE PISTOL TO A LICENSED REGULATED FIREARMS DEALER OR GUNSMITH FOR THE PURPOSE OF SERVICING THE MACHINE GUN CONVERTIBLE PISTOL;

(11) THE RECEIPT OF A MACHINE GUN CONVERTIBLE PISTOL BY A LICENSED REGULATED FIREARMS DEALER OR GUNSMITH FOR THE PURPOSE OF SERVICING THE MACHINE GUN CONVERTIBLE PISTOL AND THE RETURN OF THE MACHINE GUN CONVERTIBLE PISTOL TO ITS LAWFUL OWNER BY A LICENSED REGULATED FIREARMS DEALER OR GUNSMITH ON THE COMPLETION OF SERVICING THE MACHINE GUN CONVERTIBLE PISTOL;

(12) THE RECEIPT OF A MACHINE GUN CONVERTIBLE PISTOL BY A LAW ENFORCEMENT UNIT, BARRACKS, OR STATION, A STATE OR LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY, OR A FEDERALLY LICENSED FIREARMS DEALER IF THE PERSON IS SURRENDERING THE FIREARM;

(13) THE TEMPORARY GRATUITOUS EXCHANGE OF A MACHINE GUN CONVERTIBLE PISTOL; OR

(14) THE SALE, OFFER FOR SALE, PURCHASE, RECEIPT, OR TRANSFER OF A MACHINE GUN CONVERTIBLE PISTOL TO OR BY A PERSON WHO:

(I) IS CURRENTLY A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIAL, AS DEFINED IN § 4–201 OF THIS TITLE; OR

(II) HAS RETIRED AS A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIAL IN GOOD 25 STANDING FROM A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY OF THE UNITED STATES, THE STATE OR ANOTHER

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STATE, OR A LOCAL UNIT IN THE STATE OR ANOTHER STATE AND POSSESSES A VALID CREDENTIAL ISSUED UNDER 18 U.S.C. § 926C.

4–305.2.

(A) EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN THIS SECTION, ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 2027, A PERSON MAY NOT MANUFACTURE, SELL, OFFER FOR SALE, PURCHASE, RECEIVE, OR TRANSFER A MACHINE GUN CONVERTIBLE PISTOL.

(B) THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THIS SECTION, INCLUDING PUBLISHING A LIST OF PROHIBITED MACHINE GUN CONVERTIBLE PISTOLS.

(C) (1) IN THIS SUBSECTION, "IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBER" MEANS A SPOUSE, CHILD, STEPCHILD, PARENT, STEPPARENT, SIBLING, OR STEPSIBLING.

(2) I) A PERSON WHO LAWFULLY OBTAINED AND POSSESSES A MACHINE GUN CONVERTIBLE PISTOL MAY SELL OR OTHERWISE TRANSFER A MACHINE GUN CONVERTIBLE PISTOL TO AN IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBER WHO IS NOT PROHIBITED UNDER FEDERAL OR STATE LAW FROM POSSESSING A FIREARM.

(II) A PERSON WHO IS NOT OTHERWISE PROHIBITED UNDER FEDERAL OR STATE LAW FROM POSSESSING A FIREARM MAY PURCHASE OR OTHERWISE RECEIVE A MACHINE GUN CONVERTIBLE PISTOL FROM AN IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBER WHO LAWFULLY OBTAINED THE PISTOL.

<u>SB0775 - Public Safety - Gun Buyback Programs - Destruction of Firearms</u>

This bill requires a federal firearms licensee or law enforcement agency operating a "gun buyback program" to destroy each firearm, including every component and part attached to the firearm, that is surrendered to the licensee or agency at a gun buyback program, as specified; however, this requirement does not apply if a law enforcement agency determines that the firearm is stolen or is evidence of a crime. A licensee or agency that violates these provisions is subject to a maximum fine of $10,000 per violation. If the violator is a licensed firearms dealer, in addition to that penalty, the Secretary of State Police must revoke the dealer's license. A person may not operate a gun buyback program except in accordance with the above provisions; a person who violates this prohibition is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to a maximum fine of $10,000.

A law enforcement agency that receives a firearm as part of a gun buyback program must make reasonable efforts, including a check of the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) database, to determine whether the firearm is a crime firearm or has been reported as lost or stolen before the firearm or its component parts may be estroyed as required. Nothing in the bill may be interpreted as an exception to any other requirement or

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restriction under State or federal law relating to the purchase, rental, loan, or transfer of a firearm. ***This bill takes effect October 1, 2026***

SUBTITLE 9. GUN BUYBACK PROGRAMS.

5–901.

(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(B) "FIREARM" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 5–101 OF THIS TITLE.

(C) "GUN BUYBACK PROGRAM" MEANS A PROGRAM THAT IS OPERATED BY A FEDERAL FIREARMS LICENSEE OR A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY THAT:

(1) ALLOWS FIREARM OWNERS TO VOLUNTARILY SURRENDER FIREARMS;

(2) IS OPERATED, EITHER EXPLICITLY OR IMPLIEDLY, FOR THE PURPOSE OF REDUCING THE NUMBER OF FIREARMS IN A COMMUNITY; AND

(3) ADVERTISES THAT FIREARMS THAT ARE SURRENDERED TO THE PROGRAM WILL BE DESTROYED OR MADE PERMANENTLY INOPERABLE.

(D) "SECRETARY" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 5–101 OF THIS TITLE.

5–902.

(A) THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO A FIREARM IF A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY DETERMINES THAT THE FIREARM IS STOLEN OR IS EVIDENCE OF A CRIME.

(B) (1) (I) SUBJECT TO SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, A FEDERAL FIREARMS LICENSEE OR LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY OPERATING A GUN BUYBACK PROGRAM SHALL DESTROY EACH FIREARM, INCLUDING EVERY COMPONENT AND PART ATTACHED TO THE FIREARM, THAT IS SURRENDERED TO THE FEDERAL FIREARMS LICENSEE OR LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY AT A GUN BUYBACK PROGRAM.

(II) THE DESTRUCTION REQUIRED UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH SHALL MAKE THE FIREARM AND EVERY COMPONENT AND PART ATTACHED TO THE FIREARM PERMANENTLY INOPERABLE AND UNREPAIRABLE.

(2) A FEDERAL FIREARMS LICENSEE OR LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY MAY CONTRACT WITH A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY OR A BUSINESS TO SATISFY THE REQUIREMENT UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

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(C) A FEDERAL FIREARMS LICENSEE OR LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY THAT VIOLATES THIS SECTION IS SUBJECT TO A FINE NOT EXCEEDING $10,000 PER VIOLATION.

(D) IF A PERSON VIOLATES THIS SECTION AND THE PERSON HOLDS A DEALER'S LICENSE UNDER § 5–106 OF THIS TITLE:

(1) THE PERSON SHALL BE SUBJECT TO THE PENALTY PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION; AND

(2) THE SECRETARY SHALL REVOKE THE PERSON'S DEALER'S LICENSE IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 5–114 OF THIS TITLE.

5–903.

(A) A PERSON MAY NOT OPERATE A GUN BUYBACK PROGRAM EXCEPT IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 5–902 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

(B) A PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS SECTION IS GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR AND ON CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO A FINE NOT EXCEEDING $10,000.

5–904.

A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY THAT RECEIVES A FIREARM AS PART OF A GUN BUYBACK PROGRAM UNDER THIS SUBTITLE SHALL MAKE REASONABLE EFFORTS, INCLUDING A CHECK OF THE NATIONAL CRIME INFORMATION CENTER DATABASE, TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE FIREARM IS A CRIME FIREARM OR HAS BEEN REPORTED AS LOST OR STOLEN BEFORE THE FIREARM OR ITS COMPONENT PARTS MAY BE DESTROYED AS REQUIRED UNDER § 5–902 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

5–905.

NOTHING IN THIS SUBTITLE MAY BE INTERPRETED AS AN EXCEPTION TO ANY OTHER REQUIREMENT OR RESTRICTION UNDER STATE OR FEDERAL LAW RELATING TO THE PURCHASE, RENTAL, LOAN, OR TRANSFER OF A FIREARM.

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