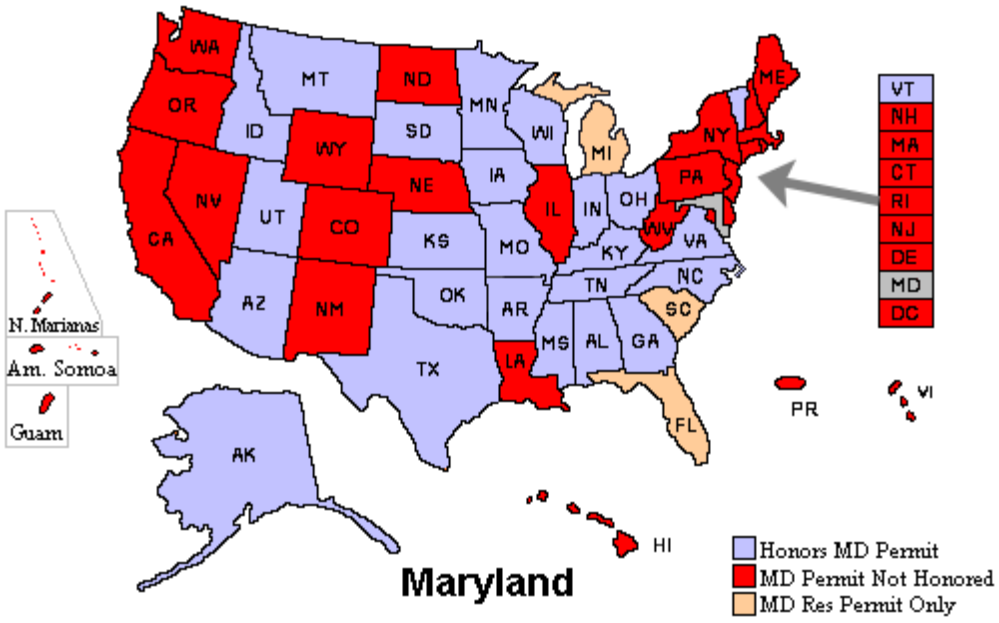
Maryland

Shall Issue

Must Inform Officer Immediately: NO

(See Must Inform Section)



Note: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia and Wyoming have "Permitless Carry" Anyone who can legally possess a firearm under state and federal law may carry in these states without a Permit. Check each states page for age or other restrictions that may apply.

Maryland CCW Links

- State CCW Site
- How to Apply for Wear & Carry Permit
- FAQs
- Fingerprinting
- St. Statutes Nexis/Lexis
- St. Statutes Westlaw
- Local Weapon Laws
- State Admin Rules
- Regulated Firearms Purchase
- Registration of Firearms
- State Attorney General
- Secretary of State
- Age to Carry a Firearm In Other States

Last Updated: 10/1/2026

Permits/Licenses This State Honors Listed Below

Maryland does not honor any other state Permit/Licenses.

How to Apply for a Permit

Notice: The Maryland State Police Licensing Division is advising all Maryland wear and carry (handgun) permit holder that all restrictions currently detailed on the reverse side of all Maryland wear and carry permits issued prior to July 7, 2022 are hereby lifted effective immediately. Please note that an unrestricted wear and carry permit does not supersede locations where firearms are prohibited by law. Those with a permit with restrictions who what to remove those restrictions from their permit can do so by going to the **MSP Main Licensing Page** that has the information you need to remove restrictions.

Note: July 26, 2020 Effective immediately, the MDSPLD is approving HQL classroom training, via two-way virtual platforms. This change in policy does not alleviate any of the HQL training requirements. You can read the **Bulletin** that the Maryland State Police have put out on the changed requirements. These changes will most likely be revoked when the Virus is under control.

Maryland Wear And Carry Permit Application Process

It now looks like Maryland is Shall Issue. The Maryland State Police are stating that you to use Self-Defense as the reason for the Application. All Applications both Resident and Non-Resident must be filed thru the Maryland State Police **"Licensing Portal"** The Maryland State Police Page **"Handgun Wear and Carry Permit"** page has instructions on how to apply. **"Maryland Shall Issue"** (MSI) has really good information on the process and how to proceed at **"Maryland Wear and Carry Permits"** Handgunlaw.us highly recommends you read the information at MSI as the process can be a little complicated.

Who is Eligible for a Permit? (From Maryland Shall Issue_MSI)

The Maryland State Police Licensing Division (MSPLD) issues permits to applicants in accordance with Md. Public Safety Art. § 5-306. Generally, this includes all responsible, law-abiding persons not prohibited by state or federal law from possessing firearms (with exceptions) and of at least 21 or a person who is a member of the armed forces of the United States, the National Guard, or the uniformed services and who complete the State's requirements. The right to carry a handgun for self-defense is sufficient reason to apply for an unrestricted permit. Permit applicants must submit completed applications through the Maryland State Police Licensing Portal. That Portal allows the applicant to include proof of training or exemption, fingerprints, passport-style photo, and $125 non-refundable fee. Use of the Portal does require one to have an email address. Maryland ***does issue*** permits to residents of other states, but they must be trained (or training exempt) by an MSP Qualified Handgun Instructor and must be LiveScan fingerprinted by an entity in Maryland and meet the other requirements applicable to residents.

Public Safety § 5–304. Application of Permit **Public Safety § 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.

(2) The fee may not exceed:

(i) $125 for an initial application;

(ii) $75 for a renewal or subsequent application; and

(iii) $20 for a duplicate or modified permit. SB 331 2026 Eff. 10/1/2026

Public Safety § 5–309. Term and Renewal of Permit **Public Safety § 5-309**

(a) Except as provided in 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. 2026, c. 455, § 1

Note: Things are fluid right now and should become clearer in the near future. In the mean time Handgunlaw.us believes you should keep looking at **"Maryland Shall Issue"** (MSI) as they are staying on top of what is happening in Maryland. This page will be updated when more information becomes available.

MD SP Wear and Carry Webpage **Wear and Carry Portal Users Guide** **Licensing Portal**

Non-Resident Permits

Non Residents apply the same way as residents. See How to Apply Section

Places Off-Limits Even With a Permit/License

NOTICE: Red strike through items below **(Court Order)** by US District Court Maryland that stated "the Court DECLARES that these three provisions violate the Second Amendment; IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that State Defendants are ENJOINED from enforcing these laws, and any regulations, policies, and practices…" With things in flux this could change by a higher court etc. Know the Maryland Laws before carrying a firearm in Maryland. They are difficult to understand and Maryland is not known as a gun friendly place. **Maryland Shall Issue** (MSI) is the place to check often for changes in Maryland law and has a listing of all **Local Firearm Laws** broken down by city and county that Maryland Wear and Carry Permit holders should be aware of. Handgunlaw.us recommends you look to their site for more information.

Per Maryland Shall Issue (MSI) these are the Places and Times in Which Firearms Can Not Be Legally Carried by a Permit Holder

1. On public school property - Md. Criminal Law § 4-102, Md. Criminal Law § 4-203(a)(1)(iii)
2. While under the influence of alcohol or drugs - Md. Public Safety § 5-314
3. When not in physical possession of the issued permit - Md. Public Safety § 5-308
4. Aboard any vehicle or inside any building under the control of the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) - Md. Transportation § 7-705(b)(6)
5. ~~Within 1,000 feet of a demonstration in a public place after being notified by law enforcement that guns cannot be carried - Md. Criminal Law § 4-208~~
6. In or around State-owned public buildings and grounds - COMAR 04.05.01.03
7. Inside State legislative buildings - Md. State Government § 2-1702(e)(2)
8. An innkeeper may refuse to provide lodging or services to or may remove from a lodging establishment an individual where the innkeeper reasonably believes the individual possesses property that may be dangerous to other individuals, such as firearms or explosives - Md. Business Regulation § 15-203(a)(6)
9. Maryland Port Administration Property - COMAR 11.05.07.04
10. On World Trade Center Baltimore Property defined in COMAR 11.05.05.02 - COMAR 11.05.05.08
11. Captain, master or any person on board or having control of any dredge boat may not have or permit to be kept on the dredge boat more than two shotguns not larger than a number ten gauge and using shot not larger than number one - Md. Natural Resources § 4-1013
12. Chesapeake Forest lands, except at designated shooting ranges and when legally hunting - COMAR 08.01.07.14
13. State Forests, except at designated shooting ranges and when legally hunting - COMAR 08.01.07.04
14. State Parks, except at designated shooting ranges and when legally hunting - COMAR 08.07.06.04
15. State Highway rest areas, when displayed - COMAR 11.04.07.12
16. At a facility under the control of the Maryland Stadium Authority - COMAR 14.25.02.06 Such facilities are defined in COMAR 14.25.01.01
17. At a State museum unless authorized for an exhibition that in the museum director's judgment promotes the purposes of the museum - COMAR 34.04.08.04
18. At a Video Lottery Facility as defined by COMAR 36.03.10.48

19. In community adult rehabilitation centers - COMAR 12.02.03.10(h)(9)

20. In child care centers, except for small centers located in residences - COMAR 13A.16.10.04

21. If under a proclaimed State of Emergency by the Governor when the Governor has issued orders, rules, or regulations controlling the possession, carry, use, and/or sale of firearms - Md. Public Safety § 14-303(b)(8)

From MD Shall Issue - Maryland County/City Weapons Laws

Note: **Armed Campus Organization** Has information on all the States Campus Carry Statutes, Regulations and Policies with some covering firearms Policies on each school's campus.

Criminal Law § 4-111 - Possession of a Firearm **Criminal Law § 4-111**

(a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

(2) "Area for Children and Vulnerable Individuals" means;

(i) A Preschool or Prekindergarten facility or the grounds of the facility;

(ii) A private Primary or Secondary School or the grounds of the school; or

(iii) A health Care Facility as defined in § 15-10B-01(G)(1), (2), (3), and (4) of the insurance article.

(3) "Firearm" has the meaning stated in § 4-104 of this subtitle.

(4) "Government or Public Infrastructure Area" means:

(i) A building or any part of a building owned or leased by a unit of State or Local Government;

(ii) A building of a public or private institution of higher education, as defined in § 10-101 of the education article.

(III) A location that is currently being used as a polling place in accordance with title 10 of the election law article or for canvassing ballots in accordance with title 11 of the election law article;

(iv) An electric plant or electric storage facility, as defined in § 1–101 of the public utilities article;

(v) A gas plant, as defined in § 1–101 of the public utilities article; or

(vi) A nuclear power plant facility.

(5) "Law Enforcement Official" has the meaning stated in § 4–201 of this article.

(6) "Police Officer" has the meaning stated in § 3–201 of the public safety article.

(7) "ROTC" means Reserve Officer Training Corps.

(8) "Service Member" has the meaning stated in § 9–901 of the 9 state government article.

(9) "Special Purpose Area" means:

~~**(i)** A location licensed to sell or dispense alcohol~~ or cannabis for on–site consumption;

(ii) A Stadium;

(iii) A Museum;

(iv) An Amusement Park;

(v) A Racetrack; *or*

(vi) A video lottery facility, as defined in § 9–1a–01 of the state government article.

(b) This section does not apply to**:**

(1) A law enforcement official or a police officer

(2) An on–duty employee of a Law Enforcement agency authorized by the agency to possess firearms on duty or whose duty assignment involves the possession of firearms;

(3) A SERVICE member on duty or traveling to or from duty;

(4) A member of an ROTC program while participating in an activity for an ROTC program;

(5) A Correctional Officer or Warden of a correctional facility in the state;

(6) A railroad Police Officer appointed under title 3, subtitle 4 of the public safety article;

(7) An employee of an armored car company, if the person is acting within the scope of employment and has a valid permit to wear, carry, or transport a handgun issued under title 5, subtitle 3 of the public safety article;

(8) Subject to subsection (i) of this section, a person who has retired as a law enforcement official in good standing from a law enforcement agency of the united states, the state or another state, or a local unit in the state or another state, who possesses a firearm, if:

(I) 1. The person is carrying the person's badge or credential in compliance with the requirements of the badge or credential;

2. The firearm carried or possessed by the person is concealed from view under or within an article of the person's clothing; and

3. The official or person is authorized to carry a handgun under the laws of the state or the united states; or

(ii) 1. The person possesses a valid permit to wear, carry, or transport a handgun issued under title 5, subtitle 3 of the public safety article; and

2. The firearm carried or possessed by the person is concealed from view under or within an article of the person's clothing;

(9) For a location that is not owned by, leased by, or otherwise under the control of the state or a political subdivision of the state:

(i) The owner or lessee of the location; or

(ii) A person who is authorized by the owner or lessee of the location to wear, carry, or transport a firearm at the location for the purpose of:

1. Employment as a security guard licensed under title 19 of the business occupations and professions article; or

2. Protecting any individual or property at the location without with an express agreement between the parties, remuneration, or compensation; or

(10) A location being used with the permission of the person or governmental unit that owns, leases, or controls the location for:

(i) An organized shooting activity for educational purposes;

(ii) A historical demonstration using a firearm; or

(iii) Hunting or target shooting; or

(11) A firearm that is carried or transported in a motor vehicle if the firearm is

(i) Locked in a container; or

(ii) A handgun worn, carried, or transported in compliance with any limitations imposed under § 5–307 of the public safety article, by a person to whom a permit to wear, carry, or transport the handgun has been issued under title 5, subtitle 3 of the public safety article.

(C) A person may not wear, carry, or transport a firearm in an area for children or vulnerable individuals.

(D) (1) A person may not wear, carry, or transport a firearm in a government or public infrastructure area.

(2) A government or public infrastructure area specified under subsection (a)(4)(i) of this section must display a clear and conspicuous sign at the main entrance of the building or the part of a building that is owned or leased by the unit of state or local government indicating that it is not permissible to wear, carry, or transport a firearm in the building or that part of the building.

(E) A person may not wear, carry, or transport a firearm in a special purpose area.

(F) a person who *willfully* violates subsection (C), *(D)(1),* or (E) of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 1 year or a fine not exceeding $1,000 or both.

(G) (1) A conviction under this section may not merge with a conviction for any other crime based on the act establishing the violation of this section.

(2) A sentence imposed under this section may be imposed separate from and consecutive to or concurrent with a sentence for any crime based on the act establishing the violation of this section.

(H) For purposes of this section, a requirement to keep a handgun concealed is not violated by:

(1) The momentary and inadvertent exposure of a handgun; or

(2) The momentary and inadvertent exposure of the imprint or outline of a handgun.

(I) Nothing in this section limits the power of an administrative head of a Maryland court to punish for contempt or to adopt rules or orders regulating, allowing, restricting, or prohibiting the possession of weapons in any building housing the court or any of its proceedings, or on any grounds appurtenant to the building.

c. 262, § 1, eff. Oct. 1, 2025

Md. Criminal Law § 4-209 gives local jurisdictions narrow authority to create their own prohibitions on where firearms may be carried or possessed and by whom. Check local jurisdictions' codes for any restrictions. Permit holders should be aware of **Md. Criminal Law § 4-206**, which guides how law enforcement officers may determine whether an individual is armed legally.

***MD Criminal Law**
§ 4-102. Deadly Weapons on School Property **Criminal Law § 4-102**

(b) A person may not carry or possess a firearm, knife, or deadly weapon of any kind on public school property.

Acts 2016, c. 9, § 1, eff. March 14, 2016

***MD Criminal Code**
§ 4-208. Possession of Firearm at Public Demonstration. **Criminal law § 4-208**

(2) (i) "Demonstration" means one or more persons demonstrating, picketing, speechmaking, marching, holding a vigil, or engaging in any other similar conduct that involves the communication or expression of views or grievances and that has the effect, intent, or propensity to attract a crowd or onlookers.

(6) (i) "Public place" means a place to which the general public has access and a right to resort for business, entertainment, or other lawful purpose.

(ii) "Public place" is not limited to a place devoted solely to the uses of the public.

(iii) "Public place" includes:

1. the front or immediate area or parking lot of a store, restaurant, tavern, shopping center, or other place of business;

2. a public building, including its grounds and curtilage;

3. a public parking lot;

4. a public street, sidewalk, or right-of-way;

5. a public park; and

6. other public grounds.

(b) Prohibited. –

~~**(2)** A person may not have a firearm in the person's possession or on or about the person at a demonstration in a public place or in a vehicle that is within 1,000 feet of a demonstration in a public place after:~~

~~**(i)** the person has been advised by a law enforcement officer that a demonstration is occurring at the public place; and~~

~~**(ii)** the person has been ordered by the law enforcement officer to leave the area of the demonstration until the person disposes of the firearm.~~

(c) Penalty. -- A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 1 year or a fine not exceeding $ 1,000 or both. c. 25, § 2, eff. Oct. 1, 2016.

***MD Code St. Government**
§ 2-1702. Interference with Legislative Process **St Government § 2-1702**

(e) Firearms and other devices restricted. --

(1) This subsection does not apply to:

(i) a law enforcement officer of any state or of the federal government who is carrying out duties of the office; or

(ii) a person whom the officer summons to help in making an arrest or in preserving the peace.

(2) A person may not willfully bring an assault weapon or other firearm or destructive device, as defined in § 4-501 of the Criminal Law Article, into or have an assault weapon or other firearm or destructive device in a building where:

(i) the Senate or the House has a chamber;

(ii) a member, officer, or employee of the General Assembly has an official office; or

(iii) a committee of the General Assembly, the Senate, or the House has an office.

(f) Penalties. -- A person who violates any provision of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to a fine not exceeding $ 1,000 or imprisonment not exceeding 1 year or both.

2004, ch. 25, § 6

***MD Code Business Regulations**
§ 15-203. Refusal of Lodging or Services; Removal **Business Regulations § 15-203**

(a) An innkeeper may refuse to provide lodging or services to or may remove from a lodging establishment an individual who:

(6) the innkeeper reasonably believes possesses property that may be dangerous to other individuals, such as firearms or explosives; or 2023, ch. 254, § 19; ch. 255, § 19.

Government Buildings Dept. of General Services
***MD Admin Rules 04.05.01.01**

.01 Definition and Application.

A. "Property" means State public buildings, improvements, grounds, and multiservice centers under the jurisdiction of the Department of General Services.

B. In addition to the regulations in this chapter, the following areas are also subject to COMAR 04.05.02 and the procedural rules of the Senate and House of Delegates:

(1) General Assembly buildings, improvements, and grounds;

(2) Senate and House of Delegates:

(a) Chambers,

(b) Lounges,

(c) Lobbies,

(d) Appurtenant areas,

(e) Committee rooms; and

(3) Joint Hearing Room. October 20, 2022

Government Buildings Dept. of General Services
***MD Admin Rules 04.05.01.03**

Prohibited Conduct.

B. Except for official purposes and by authorized personnel, an individual on the property may not carry open or concealed firearms, explosives, incendiary devices, or dangerous or deadly weapons.

***Maryland Criminal Law**
§ 4-209. Regulation of Weapons and Ammunition. **Westlaw Criminal Law § 4-209**

State preemption

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the State preempts the right of a county, municipal corporation, or special taxing district to regulate the purchase, sale, taxation, transfer, manufacture, repair, ownership, possession, and transportation of:

(1) a handgun, rifle, or shotgun; and

(2) ammunition for and components of a handgun, rifle, or shotgun.

(b) (1) A county, municipal corporation, or special taxing district may regulate the purchase, sale, transfer, ownership, possession, and transportation of the items listed in subsection (a) of this section:

(i) with respect to minors;

(ii) with respect to law enforcement officials of the subdivision; and

(iii) except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, within 100 yards of or in a park, church, school, public building, and other place of public assembly. Acts 2010, c. 712, § 1, eff. Oct. 1, 2010.

It would be impossible for most people not familiar with an area to know about any existing ordinances concerning (iii) above. Use Caution.

Chesapeake Forests Lands
***MD Admin Code 08.01.07.14 Weapons.**

A. Definition.

(1) In this regulation, the following term has the meaning indicated.

(2) Term Defined. "Weapon" means:

(a) A device capable of propelling a projectile at high velocity by mechanical means, by explosion, or by expanding gas, including but not limited to a firearm, crossbow, or long bow;

(b) A dirk knife, bowie knife, switchblade (except a penknife without a switchblade), sand club, metal knuckles, razor, or nunchaku; or

(c) A device capable of:

(i) Inflicting death or bodily harm to an individual;

(ii) Maiming or killing wildlife; or

(iii) Destroying property.

B. Except as provided in Regulation .04 of this chapter and §§C and D of this regulation, possession or use of weapons or firearms by an individual other than a law enforcement officer is prohibited in Chesapeake Forest Lands.

C. Target shooting is permitted only at designated shooting ranges. The regulations governing the use of these ranges shall be posted and strictly enforced.

D. Except when legally hunting or legally target shooting, an individual may not discharge a firearm on land or waters owned or controlled by the Service.

E. Firearms shall be unloaded, and arrows kept in a quiver or case, when in a Chesapeake Forest camping area in accordance with Regulation .07 of this chapter.

Community Adult Rehabilitation Centers
***MD Admin Rules** **12.02.03.10**

H. Security.

(9) Firearms, mace, tear gas or weapons of any other type **may** not be permitted in a facility.

*** Note:** Nothing in Maryland Law requires any of these areas to be posted with any type of signage saying they are government buildings/property or that firearms are not allowed.

Public Safety, Title 5. Subtitle 1. § 5-101 Definitions **Westlaw Public Safety § 5-101**

(r) "Regulated firearm" means:

(1) a handgun; or

(2) a firearm that is any of the following specific assault weapons or their copies, regardless of which company produced and manufactured that assault weapon. 2022, ch. 18, § 1; ch. 19, § 1.

Note: There is a list of Long Guns that are regulated firearms that can be accessed at the link above.

Public Safety
§ 5–133 Restrictions on Possession of Regulated Firearms **Westlaw Public Safety § 5-133**

(a) This section supersedes any restriction that a local jurisdiction in the State imposes on the possession by a private party of a regulated firearm, and the State preempts the right of any local jurisdiction to regulate the possession of a regulated firearm. 2025, ch. 261, § 1; ch. 262, § 1

Note: Maryland Shall Issue has a listing of "Maryland State and Local Weapons Laws" that people should be familiar with who have a License to Carry in Maryland.

Transporting Firearms in Maryland

Can I legally transport firearms? **MD State Police FAQs** (Scroll Down)

They must be unloaded, in a carrying case, holster with a flap and the ammunition should be separate. It would be best to keep the unloaded weapon in the trunk where you do not have access to it. There are further regulations but essentially you can only transport a handgun between residence, to and from a repair shop, a shooting sporting event, between a residence and place of business if substantially owned and operated by the person. For more information please contact our Licensing Division.

Can I legally transport firearms interstate? **Scroll Down.**

Yes, under Title 18, Section 926A, of the United States Code, a person who is not prohibited from possessing, transporting, shipping, or receiving a firearm shall be entitled to transport a firearm for any lawful purpose from any place where he may lawfully possess and carry such firearm to any place where he may lawfully possess and carry such firearm if, during such transportation the firearm is unloaded, neither the firearm nor any ammunition being transported is readily accessible or is directly accessible from the passenger compartment. In the case the vehicle does not have a compartment separate from the driver's compartment the firearm or ammunition shall be contained in a locked compartment other than the glove compartment or console.

Public Safety § 5-101 Definitions **Westlaw Public Safety § 5-101**

(r) "Regulated firearm" means:

(1) a handgun; or

(2) a firearm that is any of the following specific assault weapons or their copies, regardless of which company produced and manufactured that assault weapon. cts 2022, c. 19, § 1

Note: There is a list of Long Guns that are regulated firearms that can be accessed at the link above.

For Federal Restrictions on Firearms see the **USA Page**.

Do "No Gun Signs" Have the Force of Law?

"??????" (Can find no law stating they do)

We are unable to determine if "No Gun" signs have the force of law in Maryland. Until we get more information Handgunlaw.us believes you should treat every "No Gun" sign on any private business as having the force of law.

Note: Handgunlaw.us believes when you come across a business that is posted that you not just walk away. That business needs to know that they lost your business because of their "No Gun" sign. Giving them a "No Firearms = No Money" card would do just that. You can print free "No Firearms = No Money" cards by going **Here**.

Must Inform Officer Immediately on Contact By Law?

"NO"

Public Safety § 5-308. Possession of Permit Required **Westlaw Public Safety § 5-308**

A person to whom a permit is issued or renewed shall carry the permit in the person's possession whenever the person carries, wears, or transports a handgun. 2003, ch. 5, § 2. **Note:** Must present it on demand.

Carry In State Parks//WMA/Road Side Rest Areas & St. /Nat. Forests

Carry Allowed in these Areas:

State Parks: NO Admin Code 08.07.06.04 Also SB 1 2023

State/National Forests: NO Admin Code 08.07.01.04 Also SB 1 2023

Chesapeake Forests Lands: NO Admin Code 08.01.07.14

State WMA: YES Nat Res. Code Title 10 Subtitle 4 § 10-408 (d) Westlaw Link § 10-408

Road Side Rest Areas: YES Admin Code 11.04.07.12

RV/Car Carry Without a Permit/License

It is illegal to carry any loaded firearm in any vehicle in Maryland without a MD Permit to Carry.

Notice: Maryland has a unit called, "Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center." They have license plate reader cameras around the state that read license plates of vehicles. Some are connected to Criminal Background Check programs and Permit/License Holder lists from the different states that will supply them with that information. Do use caution when even driving through Maryland. They can know if you have a firearms permit/license without even stopping you. Other States most likely have a similar system.

Criminal Law § 4-203. Wearing, Carrying, 0r Transporting Handgun Criminal Law Westlaw § 4-203

(a) Prohibited. --

(1) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, a person may not:

(i) wear, carry, or transport a handgun, whether concealed or open, on or about the person;

(ii) wear, carry, or knowingly transport a handgun, whether concealed or open, in a vehicle traveling on a road or parking lot generally used by the public, highway, waterway, or airway of the State;

(iii) violate item (i) or (ii) of this paragraph while on public school property in the State;

(iv) violate item (i) or (ii) of this paragraph with the deliberate purpose of injuring or killing another person; or

(v) violate item (i) or (ii) of this paragraph with a handgun loaded with ammunition.

(b) Exceptions. -- This section does not prohibit:

(3 the carrying of a handgun on the person or in a vehicle while the person is transporting the handgun to or from the place of legal purchase or sale, or to or from a bona fide repair shop, or between bona fide residences of the person, or between the bona fide residence and place of business of the person, if the business is operated and owned substantially by the person if each handgun is unloaded and carried in an enclosed case or an enclosed holster;

(4) the wearing, carrying, or transporting by a person of a handgun used in connection with an organized military activity, a target shoot, formal or informal target practice, sport shooting event, hunting, a Department of Natural Resources-sponsored firearms and hunter safety class, trapping, or a dog obedience training class or show, while the person is engaged in, on the way to, or returning from that activity if each

handgun is unloaded and carried in an enclosed case or an enclosed holster;

(5) the moving by a bona fide gun collector of part or all of the collector's gun collection from place to place for public or private exhibition if each handgun is unloaded and carried in an enclosed case or an enclosed holster;

(6) the wearing, carrying, or transporting of a handgun by a person on real estate that the person owns or leases or where the person resides or within the confines of a business establishment that the person owns or leases; Ch. 680, Sec. 1, eff. 10/1/2023

How can I legally transport firearms within/through Maryland?

Answer: They must be unloaded, in a carrying case, holster with a flap and the ammunition should be separate. It would be best to keep the unloaded weapon in the trunk where you do not have access to it. There are further regulations but essentially you can only transport a handgun between residence, to and from a repair shop, a shooting sporting event, between a residence and place of business if substantially owned and operated by the person. For more information please contact our Licensing Division.

From the Maryland State Police FAQs.

Q. Can I legally transport firearms interstate? (From the MD State Police)

A. Yes, under Title 18, Section 926A, of the United States Code, a person who is not prohibited from possessing, transporting, shipping, or receiving a firearm shall be entitled to transport a firearm for any lawful purpose from any place where he may lawfully possess and carry such firearm to any place where he may lawfully possess and carry such firearm if, during such transportation the firearm is unloaded, neither the firearm nor any ammunition being transported is readily accessible or is directly accessible from the passenger compartment. In the case the vehicle does not have a compartment separate from the driver's compartment the firearm or ammunition shall be contained in a locked compartment other than the glove compartment or console.

Federal Law on Transporting Firearms:

§ 926A. Interstate Transportation of Firearms

Notwithstanding any other provision of any law or any rule or regulation of a State or any political subdivision thereof, any person who is not otherwise prohibited by this chapter from transporting, shipping, or receiving a firearm shall be entitled to transport a firearm for any lawful purpose from any place where he may lawfully possess and carry such firearm to any other place where he may lawfully possess and carry such firearm if, during such transportation the firearm is unloaded, and neither the firearm nor any ammunition being transported is readily accessible or is directly accessible from the passenger compartment of such transporting vehicle: Provided, That in the case of a vehicle without a compartment separate from the driver's compartment the firearm or ammunition shall be contained in a locked container other than the glove compartment or console. July 8, 1986, 100 Stat. 766.)

Note: If you travel through MD with the firearm unloaded and secured you are covered under Federal law. If you interrupt your trip while in Maryland, you come under state law, and may not transport a handgun even unloaded and cased, except to a few designated destinations (range, residence, etc.) without a Maryland Permit. These restrictions on transportation do not apply to long guns.

Open Carry (Without a Valid Permit/License)

"NO" Open Carry even with a permit is illegal in Maryland. **Per § 5-307** **Westlaw § 5-307**

State Preemption

Maryland Criminal Law § 4-209. Regulation of Weapons and Ammunition. **Westlaw Link §4-209**

(a) State preemption. -- Except as otherwise provided in this section, the State preempts the right of a county, municipal corporation, or special taxing district to regulate the purchase, sale, taxation, transfer, manufacture, repair, ownership, possession, and transportation of:

(1) a handgun, rifle, or shotgun; and

(2) ammunition for and components of a handgun, rifle, or shotgun.

(b) Exceptions. --

(1) A county, municipal corporation, or special taxing district may regulate the purchase, sale, transfer, ownership, possession, and transportation of the items listed in subsection (a) of this section:

(i) with respect to minors;

(ii) with respect to law enforcement officials of the subdivision; and

(iii) except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, within 100 yards of or in a park, church, school, public building, and other place of public assembly.

(2) A county, municipal corporation, or special taxing district may not prohibit the teaching of or training in firearms safety, or other educational or sporting use of the items listed in subsection (a) of this section.

(3) A county, municipal corporation, or special taxing district may not prohibit the transportation of an item listed in subsection (a) of this section by a person who is carrying a court order requiring the surrender of the item, if:

(i) the handgun, rifle, or shotgun is unloaded;

(ii) the person has notified the law enforcement unit, barracks, or station that the item is being transported in accordance with the court order; and

(iii) the person transports the item directly to the law enforcement unit, barracks, or station.

(c) Preexisting local laws. -- To the extent that a local law does not create an inconsistency with this section or expand existing regulatory control, a county, municipal corporation, or special taxing district may exercise its existing authority to amend any local law that existed on or before December 31, 1984.

(d) Discharge of firearms. --

(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, in accordance with law, a county, municipal corporation, or special taxing district may regulate the discharge of handguns, rifles, and shotguns.

(2) A county, municipal corporation, or special taxing district may not prohibit the discharge of firearms at established ranges.

Acts 2010, c. 712, § 1, eff. Oct. 1, 2010

Deadly Force Laws

I can't find any of the cases mentioned on a Maryland Government site to post a link to. Many are old cases. They can be found on law sites with a Google search. I am not sure how reliable this information is but it is the only info I can find on Maryland Deadly Force Laws. Use it as a start in your search to find more information

Maryland also follows the common law rule that, outside of one's home, a person, before using deadly force in self-defense, has the duty "'to retreat or avoid danger if such means were within his power and consistent with his safety.'" DeVaughn v. State, 232 Md. 447, 453, 194 A.2d 109, 112 (1963), cert. denied, 376 U.S. 527 (1964), quoting Bruce v. State, 218 Md. 87, 97, 145 A.2d 428, 433 (1958). See also Burch v. State, 346 Md. 253, 283, 696 A.2d 443, 458 (1997).

But a person does not have to retreat if it would not be safe for the person to do so. "if the peril of the defendant was imminent, he did not have to retreat but had a right to stand his ground and to defend and protect himself." Bruce v. State, supra, 218 Md. at 97, 145 A.2d at 433.

The duty to retreat also does not apply if one is attacked in one's own home. "[A] man faced with the danger of an attack upon his dwelling need not retreat from his home to escape the danger, but instead may stand his ground and, if necessary to repel the attack, may kill the attacker." Crawford v. State, 231 Md. 354, 361, 190 A.2d 538, 541 (1963). The Court of Appeals said in Crawford, a case in which the defendant fatally shot a younger man who was attempting to break into his home to beat and rob him:

Knife Laws State/Cities

To access State/Local Knife Laws Click "Here"

Carry in Restaurants That Serve Alcohol

~~NO~~ **YES** **at this time per US District Ct Maryland Order**

Note: A "YES" above means you can carry into places like described below. "NO" means you can't. Handgunlaw.us definition of "Restaurant Carry" is carry in a restaurant that serves alcohol. Places like Friday's or Red Lobster unless posted with "No Gun Signs." This may or may not mean the bar or the bar area of a restaurant. But you can carry your firearm into a restaurant that serves alcohol and sit and eat without consuming. Handgunlaw.us recommends you not sit at the Bar or in the Bar area of such restaurants. In some states it is illegal to be in the Bar area of such restaurants. Handgunlaw.us believes you should never consume alcohol when carrying your firearm. In some states it is illegal to take even one drink while carrying a firearm. If you want further info on carrying in places that serve alcohol check your state laws.

Chemical Sprays/Stun Gun/Higher Capacity Magazine Laws

Higher Capacity Magazines:

Criminal Law § 4-305. Detachable Magazines -- Prohibited **Westlaw Criminal Law § 4-305**

(a) Scope of section. -- This section does not apply to:

(1) a .22 caliber rifle with a tubular magazine; or

(2) a law enforcement officer or a person who retired in good standing from service with a law enforcement agency of the United States, the State, or any law enforcement agency in the State.

(b) Prohibited. -- A person may not manufacture, sell, offer for sale, purchase, receive, or transfer a detachable magazine that has a capacity of more than 10 rounds of ammunition for a firearm.

History: , 2013, ch. 427§ 1,

Criminal Law § 4–301. **Westlaw Criminal Law § 4-301**

(I) "Copycat weapon" means:

(iv) a semiautomatic pistol with a fixed magazine that can accept more than 10 rounds;

(k) "detachable magazine" means an ammunition feeding device that can be removed readily from a firearm without requiring disassembly of the firearm action or without the use of a tool, including a bullet or cartridge. Acts 2026, c. 771, § 1,

Stun Devices

Criminal Law § 4-109. Electronic Control Device. **Westlaw Criminal Law § 4-109**

(a) Definitions.-

(1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

(2) "Crime of violence" has the meaning stated in § 14-101 of this article.

(3) "Electronic control device" means a portable device designed as a weapon capable of injuring, immobilizing, or inflicting pain on an individual by the discharge of electrical current.

(b) Requirements for possession or use.- A person may not possess or use an electronic control device unless the person:

(1) has attained the age of 18 years; and

(2) has never been convicted of a crime of violence or a violation of § 5-602, § 5-603, § 5-604, § 5-605, § 5-606, § 5-613, or § 5-614 of this article.

(c) Prohibitions.- An electronic control device may not be sold and activated in the State unless:

(1) an instructional manual or audio or audiovisual instructions are provided to the purchaser;

(2) the manufacturer maintains a record of the original owner of the electronic control device; and

(3) the manufacturer or seller has obtained a State and federal criminal history records check of the original owner to ensure compliance with subsection (b)(2) of this section.

(d) Access to manufacturer's records.- A manufacturer of electronic control devices shall provide an investigating law enforcement agency with prompt access to the manufacturer's records on electronic control devices and cartridges sold in the State. Acts 2009, c. 321, § 1, eff. Oct. 1, 2009.

Stun Devices

Baltimore, MD

Police Code Article 19 § 59-28 Can't possess in Schools/State/City Buildings.

Ocean City, MD

Sec. 58-162 Can only have in Home or Carry if you have a MD Carry Permit.

Notice: Beware there could be other locations in Marylandwith restrictions.

Chem Sprays

Criminal Law § 4-101. Dangerous Weapons **Criminal Law Westlaw § 4-101**

(a)(1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated

(c)(2) A person may not wear or carry a dangerous weapon, chemical mace, pepper mace, or a tear gas device openly with the intent or purpose of injuring an individual in an unlawful manner. Acts 2003, c. 21, § 1,

Note: Carry is legal you just can't carry it openly.

LEOSA State Information

LEOSA Information from the Maryland State Police

Criminal Law Title 4 Subtitle 3 § 4-305. Detachable Magazines -- Prohibited **Westlaw Link § 4-305**

(a) Scope of section. -- This section does not apply to:

(1) a .22 caliber rifle with a tubular magazine; or
(2) a law enforcement officer or a person who retired in good standing from service with a law enforcement agency of the United States, the State, or any law enforcement agency in the State.

(b) Prohibited. -- A person may not manufacture, sell, offer for sale, purchase, receive, or transfer a detachable magazine that has a capacity of more than 10 rounds of ammunition for a firearm.

History**:** § 2; 2013, ch. 427.

See the LEOSA Section on the **USA Page** at Handgunlaw.us for more LEOSA Information.

Attorney General Opinions/Court Cases

- **Maryland AG - Integrated Devices**
- **Maryland AG - Preemption**
- **Maryland Supreme Court on Loan of Firearms**
- **Maryland Supreme Court - Self-Defense**
- **Maryland AG – Carrying Loaded Mags In Vehicles**
- **U.S. District Ct – Ruling on Good Cause for Issue of Permit/License**
- **MD AG Response Letter to Long Gun Carry**
- **MD AG on Definition of Enclosed Holster.**
- **AG Letter to Capt. of MD SP Lic. Div on Not Enforcing "Good & Substantial Reason."** **(**7/2022)

Airport Carry/Misc. Information

Link to State Statutes

Airport Carry: **NO** No Carry in Terminal and from what I am hearing even the Parking Garages could be off limits but the law does not list them. COMAR **11.03.01.09 C.**

Training Valid for: **2 Years**

Time Period to Establish Residency: **"A person who moves into the state with the intent of becoming a resident shall register all regulated firearms with the Secretary [of the Maryland State Police] within 90 days after establishing residency."From all Handgunlaw.us can find out you become a resident upon obtaining a Drivers License/State ID.**

Minimum Age for Permit/License: **21** **or member of armed forces, Nat. Guard, or other uniformed services;**

Permit/License Info Public Information: **NO** **(SB 281 – Passed 2013)**

State Firearm Laws: **Public Safety 5-101 Thru 5-504 & Criminal Code 4-101 thru 4-503**

State Deadly Force Laws: **Unknown**

State Knife Laws: **Public Safety 5-101 & 5-105**

Chemical/Electric Weapons Laws: **Criminal Code 4-101**

Body Armor Laws: **Criminal Code 4-106 & 4-107**

Does Your Permit Cover Other Weapons Besides Firearms? **YES** **Public Safety 5-301 say Handgun but Criminal Code § 4-101. exempts Permit Holders from the law prohibiting carrying other dangerous weapons.**

State Safe Storage/Access by Minors Statute/s: **MD Criminal Law § 4-104**

Is carrying of a Concealed Firearm with Permit/License for Defensive Purposes Only While Hunting Legal? **YES** **Nat Resources Code Title 10 Subtitle 4 § 10-408 (d) Only While Bow Hunting in Deer Management Region A.**
Westlaw Link § 10-408

Red Flag Statute: **Public Safety - Title 5 - Subtitle 6 - § 5-601 through § 5-610**

Notes

What Does MD Consider A Loaded Firearm?

Natural Resources Title 10
§ 10-410. Restrictions on Hunting Wildlife Generally.

(c) Hunting from Vehicles.-

(1) A person may not shoot at any species of wildlife from an automobile or other vehicle or, except as provided in § 4-203(b) of the Criminal Law Article and Title 5, Subtitle 3 of the Public Safety Article, possess in or on an automobile or other vehicle a loaded handgun or shotgun, or a rifle containing any ammunition in the magazine or chamber. 2026, c. 421, § 1

Note – AG Opinion (See AG Opinion Above on Loaded Mags in Vehicles) states that it is legal to have in a vehicle a loaded magazine that is not inserted into the firearm but is separate from the firearm.

State Emergency Powers

Public Safety Title 14. Emergency Management Subtitle 3. Governor's Emergency Powers

Md. PUBLIC SAFETY Code Ann. § 14-303 (2012)

Public Safety § 14-303. Governor's Proclamation of State Of Emergency **Westlaw Link § 14-303**

(a) Authority to proclaim state of emergency. -- During a public emergency in the State, the Governor may proclaim a state of emergency and designate the emergency area:

(1) if public safety is endangered or on reasonable apprehension of immediate danger to public safety; and

(2) on: **(i)** the Governor's own initiative; or
(ii) the application of:

1. the chief executive officer or governing body of a county or municipal corporation; or

2. the Secretary of State Police.

(b) Orders, rules, and regulations to control and terminate public emergency -- Issuance. -- After proclaiming a state of emergency, the Governor may promulgate reasonable orders, rules, or regulations that the Governor considers necessary to protect life and property or calculated effectively to control and terminate the public emergency in the emergency area, including orders, rules, or regulations to:

(1) control traffic, including public and private transportation, in the emergency area;

(2) designate specific zones in the emergency area in which the occupancy and use of buildings and vehicles may be controlled;

(3) control the movement of individuals or vehicles into, in, or from the designated zones;

(4) control places of amusement and places of assembly;

(5) control individuals on public streets;

(6) establish curfews;

(7) control the sale, transportation, and use of alcoholic beverages;

(8) control the possession, sale, carrying, and use of firearms, other dangerous weapons, and ammunition; and

(9) control the storage, use, and transportation of explosives or flammable materials or liquids considered to be dangerous to public safety, including "Molotov cocktails".

(c) Orders, rules, and regulations to control and terminate public emergency -- Notice. -- Before an order, rule, or regulation promulgated under subsection (b) of this section takes effect, the Governor shall give reasonable notice of the order, rule, or regulation:

(1) in a newspaper of general circulation in the emergency area;

(2) through television or radio serving the emergency area; or

(3) by circulating notices or posting signs at conspicuous places in the emergency area.

(d) Orders, rules, and regulations to control and terminate public emergency -- Effect. -- An order, rule, or regulation promulgated under subsection (b) of this section:

(1) takes effect from the time and in the manner specified in the order, rule, or regulation;

(2) may be amended or rescinded, in the same manner as the original order, by the Governor at any time during the state of emergency; and

(3) terminates when the Governor declares that the state of emergency no longer exists.

HISTORY: Acts 2014, c. 29, § 1,

Note: Additional information on MD Emergency Management is contained in the MD Code Under Public Safety title 14.

Note: Federal Law can apply if the state is receiving monetary and/or other assistance from the Federal Government. See **US Code 42-5207** for Federal Law as it applies to States of Emergencies. The state quoted

code may also not be all of the law on Emergency Powers held by the state. You should read the entire code on Emergency Powers etc for this state by following the link to the state code.

Minimum Age for Possessing and Transporting of Handguns.

Maryland 21 Y/O

Public Safety, Title 5 Firearms, Subtitle I, § 5-133 (d)(1) **Westlaw Public Safety § 5-133**

This is the minimum age for possessing and transporting a handgun unloaded and secured in a vehicle without any type of permit/license to carry firearms.

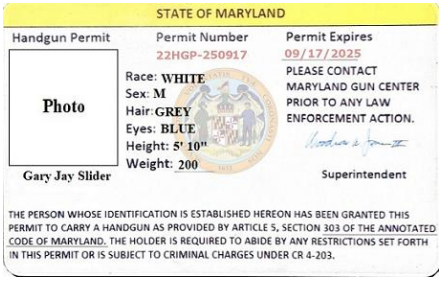
Some states (and counties) require Firearms Identification Cards, and/or registration.

Note: In some states Possession and Transportation CAN be very restrictive in that you can ONLY possess and transport a handgun to and from a Shooting Range, Gun Shop, property you own or other places you can legally possess a handgun. Some states do not have this restriction.

This is not the last word on possession and transporting of handguns in this, or any other state. Study your state law further for more information. See "RV/Car Carry" Section Above for more information.

Permit/License Image







Updates to this Page

Archive of Previous Updates 2

5/4/2025 – Minnesota Now Honors Maryland Permit. Map Updated.
5/20/2025 – Chem Spray Info Added to Stun Guns/Chem Sprays/Higher Cap Mag Section.
7/1/2025 – **Note:** Maryland Shall Issue has a listing of "Maryland State and Local Weapons Laws" Added to Places Off Lim its Section. All Links Checked.
10/15/2025 – All External Links, Statutes and Admin Rules Quoted Have Been Checked and are up to Date and Point to the Most Up to Date Published Edition of that Statute/Admin Rule and/or Document.
1/20/2026 - All Links Checked and Repaired if Needed. On This Date All Statutes Quoted Checked and are Latest Version of That Statute.
3/15/2026 - All Links Checked and Repaired if Needed. On This Date All Statutes Quoted Checked and are Latest Version of That Statute.
6/7/2026 – All Links Checked.
7/21/2026 - All Links to Maryland Administrative Code Updated Seems State Updated Their COMAR Links.
8/4/2026 - All Links Checked and Repaired if Needed. On This Date All Statutes Quoted Checked and are Latest Version of That Statute.
10/1/2026 - § 4–301 Update in Higher Capacity Magazines Section Per SB 334. . § 5–309 Update in How to Apply Section Per SB 331