



MARYLAND STATE POLICE

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ADVISORY

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77R SUBMISSION AND HQL NEARING EXPIRATION

In order to provide a thorough and complete background investigation on applicants submitting 77R applications, it is standard procedure for the Maryland Department of State Police Licensing Division (MDSPLD) to assure that the Handgun Qualification License (HQL) identified on the 77R is valid. Maryland Public Safety Article §5-117.1(b) states that "A dealer or any other person may not sell, rent, or transfer a handgun to a purchaser, lessee, or transferee unless the purchaser, lessee, or transferee presents to the dealer or other person a valid handgun qualification license issued to the purchaser, lessee, or transferee by the Secretary under this section." This section of the law specifies that the applicant must have a valid HQL to not only submit a 77R application to purchase a handgun, but also to receive the handgun during the actual transfer of the handgun from the dealer/other person to the applicant as well.

This Advisory is to remind dealers that at the time of 77R submission, they are required to verify the identity of the applicant, that the applicant is in possession of a HQL, and that the HQL is not expired. Dealers are also advised that they are required to assure that the applicant is in possession of a non-expired HQL prior to transferring the firearm to the applicant.

The MDSPLD will continue to validate the HQL associated with a 77R during all processing phases, including the initial background investigation and any requested NICS or Licensing Rechecks. Should the MDSPLD discover that the HQL has expired or will expire during the initial 7-day processing period, the 77R will be cancelled due to non-compliance with PS 5-117.1.

For further information, please visit our website by clicking: [Maryland State Police Licensing Division](#). If you need further assistance or have additional questions, you may contact the Licensing Division at msp.firearmsregistration@maryland.gov. Regulated Firearms Dealers may contact us using the LiveHelp feature within the Licensing Portal.

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