



MARYLAND STATE POLICE

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Firearms Legislation Passed During 2024 Maryland General Assembly Session

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 2024 legislative session, held January 9- April 8, 2024. 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, 2024 legislative session:

HB0315/SB0319 - Regulated Firearms - Maryland Judiciary - Reporting Requirements

This bill repeals the requirement for the Maryland State Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy (MSCCSP) to report to the Governor and the General Assembly, by October 1, 2024, and each October thereafter, on the number of charges, convictions, and sentences for violations of § 4-203 of the Criminal Law Article (wearing, carrying, or transporting handgun) and § 5-133(d) of the Public Safety Article (restrictions on possession of regulated firearms) and instead requires the Maryland Judiciary, by October 1, 2024, and each October thereafter, to report that same information. **The bill takes effect June 1, 2024.**

HB0947 - Civil Actions - Public Nuisances - Firearm Industry Members (Gun Industry Accountability Act of 2024)

This bill (1) prohibits a “firearm industry member” from knowingly creating, maintaining, or contributing to harm to the public through the sale, manufacture, distribution, importation, or marketing of a firearm-related product by engaging in conduct that is unlawful or unreasonable under the totality of the circumstances; (2) requires a firearm industry member to establish and implement “reasonable controls” regarding the sale, manufacture, distribution, importation, marketing, possession, and use of the firearm industry member’s firearm-related products; and (3) establishes that a violation of these provisions is a public nuisance. In addition, the bill authorizes the Attorney General, a county

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attorney, or the Baltimore City Solicitor to bring an action against a firearm industry member for a public nuisance caused by a violation of the bill's provisions, as specified. The bill also requires the Attorney General, in consultation with the Department of State Police (DSP), to conduct a specified study related to firearm trace requests and report its recommendations and findings to the General Assembly by June 30, 2025. The bill's provisions are severable. **The bill takes effect June 1, 2024.**

HB0416 - Public Schools - Active Shooter Safety Drills or Trainings - Requirements

This bill prohibits active shooter drills or trainings in schools from including specified activities that may be traumatic for students or school personnel. It also requires local school systems to (1) notify parents in advance of active shooter drills or trainings in schools; (2) provide mental health follow-up to students and school personnel after an active shooter drill or training; and (3) collect data on the effectiveness and psychological impact of the drills or trainings and report the data to the Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS) for further analysis. Finally, the bill requires MCSS to develop and distribute model content regarding the State's firearm storage laws, as specified. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.**

HB1167 - Maryland Center for School Safety - Secure Schools Emergency Response Grant Program - Established

This bill establishes the Secure Schools Emergency Response Grant Program in the Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS). The purpose of the program is to provide grants to local school systems to improve emergency notification systems and communication between public elementary and secondary school personnel, a public safety answering point (PSAP), and a public safety agency during emergency events. Local school systems that apply for and receive grants must use the funds to improve emergency notification systems or enhance communications within the school and with public safety agencies. By September 1, 2026, MCSS must ensure that the program is operating and available to each local school board. The Governor may include an appropriation in the annual budget bill for the program. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.**

HB0583/SB0475 - Center for Firearm Violence Prevention and Intervention - Establishment

This Administration bill establishes the Center for Firearm Violence Prevention and Intervention in the Maryland Department of Health (MDH). The purpose of the center is to reduce firearm violence, harm from firearm violence, and misuse of firearms in the State by partnering with federal, State, and local agencies and affected communities to implement a public health approach to firearm violence reduction. The center must (1) work in consultation with specified State agencies and stakeholders; (2) solicit and consider recommendations from specified communities and experts; and (3) submit to the Governor and General Assembly a preliminary State Plan for a Public Health Approach to Reducing Firearm Violence (by May 1, 2025), and a State Strategic Plan for Firearm Violence Reduction Using Public Health Strategies (by May 1, 2029, and every four years thereafter). **The bill takes effect October 1, 2024.**

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HB0810 - Criminal Law - Rapid-Fire Activator - Switch/Auto-Sear

This bill (1) alters the defined term “rapid fire trigger activator” to be “rapid fire activator” and (2) expands the definition of “rapid fire activator” to include a “switch/auto-sear” for purposes of existing prohibitions and penalties. “Switch/auto-sear” means a device that applies force to a firearm’s trigger bar to prevent it from limiting the weapon to firing only one round each time the trigger is depressed.”

The bill takes effect October 1, 2024.

HB1063 - Criminal Organizations - Underlying Crime

This bill expands the meaning of “underlying crime” for the purposes of establishing a “pattern of organized criminal activity” applicable to related criminal prohibitions. **The bill takes effect October 1, 2024.**

SB0652 - Department of Juvenile Services – Report on Shootings (Department of Juvenile Services Transparency Act of 2024)

This bill requires the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) to report to the Commission on Juvenile Justice Reform and Emerging and Best Practices and the General Assembly by December 1 each year on (1) the number of juveniles under DJS’s supervision in the preceding year who were nonfatally shot, shot another individual, or were victims of a homicide; (2) the actions DJS took in response and a timeline of such actions; (3) the age of each juvenile in the report; and (4) the county of residence of each juvenile in the report. The initial report submitted must include a description of any established process that DJS uses after a shooting involving supervised youth or when a youth under DJS supervision is the victim of a homicide. **The bill takes effect October 1, 2024.**

HB0814 - Juvenile Law - Reform

This bill makes numerous changes to the juvenile justice process in the State, including (1) altering the jurisdiction of the juvenile court; (2) altering procedures relating to juvenile intake, complaints, detention, and probation; (3) repealing provisions relating to the State Advisory Board for Juvenile Services; (4) altering provisions relating to the Commission on Juvenile Justice Reform and Emerging and Best Practices; and (5) altering reporting requirements for the Juvenile Justice Monitoring Unit (JJMU), the Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention and Policy (GOCPP), and the Department of Juvenile Service (DJS). The bill also prohibits registered juvenile sex offenders from entering onto places for education, as specified. Additionally, the bill codifies the Governor’s Office for Children (GOC) and a Children’s Cabinet, to be administered by GOC. **As noted, most of the bill’s provisions that contain firearm related topics take effect November 1, 2024; however, provisions related to JJMU, the commission, and an annual report by GOCPP take effect June 1, 2024.**

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