

# HOUSE BILL 647

E4  
HB 663/17 – JUD

8lr0444

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By: **Delegates Reilly, Afzali, Buckel, Carozza, Cassilly, Folden, Glass, Grammer, Hornberger, Impallaria, Kipke, Krebs, Long, Malone, McComas, McDonough, Morgan, Parrott, Rose, Saab, Shoemaker, Szeliga, and Wivell**  
Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2018  
Assigned to: Judiciary

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Safety – Permit to Carry, Wear, or Transport a Handgun – Qualifications**

3 FOR the purpose of clarifying that personal protection or self–defense can qualify as a good  
4 and substantial reason to wear, carry, or transport a handgun for purposes of the  
5 issuance by the Secretary of State Police of a permit to carry, wear, or transport a  
6 handgun; and generally relating to a permit to carry, wear, or transport a handgun.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

8 Article – Public Safety

9 Section 5–301(a) and (d)

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2011 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

13 Article – Public Safety

14 Section 5–306(a)

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (2011 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

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

19 **Article – Public Safety**

20 5–301.

21 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (d) "Permit" means a permit issued by the Secretary to carry, wear, or transport  
2 a handgun.

3 5-306.

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

6 (1) is an adult;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 (ii) classroom instruction on:

24 1. State firearm law;

25 2. home firearm safety; and

26 3. handgun mechanisms and operation; and

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

29 (6) based on an investigation:

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

4 (ii) has good and substantial reason to wear, carry, or transport a  
5 handgun, such as **PERSONAL PROTECTION, SELF-DEFENSE, OR** a finding that the  
6 permit is necessary as a reasonable precaution against apprehended danger.

7 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
8 October 1, 2018.