

HOUSE BILL 703

E4, E1

6lr1872
CF 6lr3170

By: **Delegates A. Miller, Dumais, and M. Washington**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2016

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Safety – Firearms Disqualifications – Antique Firearm**

3 FOR the purpose of applying certain provisions disqualifying a person from possessing a
4 rifle or shotgun to an antique firearm; altering the definition of “firearm” to clarify
5 that the term includes an antique firearm; making conforming changes; and
6 generally relating to firearms disqualifications.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
8 Article – Criminal Law
9 Section 4–201(a) and (b)
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
13 Article – Public Safety
14 Section 5–101(a) and (b)
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2011 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

17 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
18 Article – Public Safety
19 Section 5–101(h), 5–133.3(b) and (d), and 5–205
20 Annotated Code of Maryland
21 (2011 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

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

24 **Article – Criminal Law**

25 4–201.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

2 (b) “Antique firearm” means:

3 (1) a firearm, including a firearm with a matchlock, flintlock, percussion
4 cap, or similar ignition system, manufactured before 1899; or

5 (2) a replica of a firearm described in item (1) of this subsection that:

6 (i) is not designed or redesigned to use rimfire or conventional
7 centerfire fixed ammunition; or

8 (ii) uses rimfire or conventional centerfire fixed ammunition that is
9 no longer manufactured in the United States and is not readily available in the ordinary
10 channels of commercial trade.

11 Article – Public Safety

12 5–101.

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

14 (b) “Antique firearm” has the meaning stated in § 4–201 of the Criminal Law
15 Article.

16 (h) (1) “Firearm” means:

17 (i) a weapon that expels, is designed to expel, or may readily be
18 converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; or

19 (ii) the frame or receiver of such a weapon.

20 (2) “Firearm” includes a starter gun **AND AN ANTIQUE FIREARM.**

21 5–133.3.

22 (b) A person subject to a regulated firearms disqualification under § 5–133(b)(6),
23 (7), (8), (9), (10), or (11) of this subtitle, a rifle or shotgun disqualification under §
24 [5–205(b)(6)] **5–205(A)(6)**, (7), (8), (9), (10), or (11) of this title, or prohibited from the
25 shipment, transportation, possession, or receipt of a firearm by 18 U.S.C. §§ 922(d)(4) or
26 (g)(4) as a result of an adjudication or commitment that occurred in the State may be
27 authorized to possess a firearm if:

28 (1) the person is not subject to another firearms restriction under State or
29 federal law; and

1 (2) the Health Department, in accordance with this section, determines
2 that the person may possess a firearm.

3 (d) An application for relief from a firearms disqualification shall include:

4 (1) a complete and accurate statement explaining the reason why the
5 applicant is prohibited from possessing a regulated firearm under § 5–133(b)(6), (7), (8), (9),
6 (10), or (11) of this subtitle or a rifle or shotgun under § [5–205(b)(6)] **5–205(A)(6)**, (7), (8),
7 (9), (10), or (11) of this title, or is prohibited from the shipment, transportation, possession,
8 or receipt of a firearm by 18 U.S.C. §§ 922(d)(4) or (g)(4) as a result of an adjudication or
9 commitment that occurred in the State;

10 (2) a statement why the applicant should be relieved from the prohibition
11 described in item (1) of this subsection;

12 (3) if the applicant is subject to a prohibition described in item (1) of this
13 subsection, a certificate issued within 30 days of the submission of the application on a form
14 approved by the Health Department and signed by an individual licensed in the State as a
15 physician who is board certified in psychiatry or as a psychologist stating:

16 (i) the length of time that the applicant has not had symptoms that
17 cause the applicant to be a danger to the applicant or others, or, if the disqualification
18 relates to an intellectual disability, the length of time that the applicant has not engaged
19 in behaviors that cause the applicant to be a danger to the applicant or others;

20 (ii) the length of time that the applicant has been compliant with the
21 treatment plan for the applicant's mental illness, or, if the disqualification relates to an
22 intellectual disability, the length of time that the applicant has been compliant with any
23 behavior plan or behavior management plan;

24 (iii) an opinion as to whether the applicant, because of mental illness,
25 would be a danger to the applicant if allowed to possess a firearm and a statement of
26 reasons for the opinion; and

27 (iv) an opinion as to whether the applicant, because of mental illness,
28 would be a danger to another person or poses a risk to public safety if allowed to possess a
29 firearm;

30 (4) if the applicant is prohibited from possessing a firearm under §
31 [5–133(b)(11) of this subtitle or § [5–205(b)(11)] **5–205(A)(11)** of this title:

32 (i) a copy of all pleadings, affidavits, and certificates submitted into
33 evidence at the guardianship proceeding; and

34 (ii) all orders issued by the court relating to the guardianship,
35 including, if applicable, an order indicating that the guardianship is no longer in effect;

1 (5) a signed authorization, on a form approved by the Health Department,
2 allowing the Health Department to access any relevant health care, mental health,
3 disability, guardianship, and criminal justice records, including court ordered or required
4 mental health records, of the applicant for use in determining whether the applicant should
5 be relieved from a firearms disqualification;

6 (6) three statements signed and dated within 30 days of submission to the
7 Health Department on a form designated by the Health Department attesting to the
8 applicant's reputation and character relevant to firearm ownership or possession including:

9 (i) at least two statements provided by an individual who is not
10 related to the applicant; and

11 (ii) contact information for each individual providing a statement;
12 and

13 (7) any other information required by the Health Department.

14 5–205.

15 (a) [This subtitle does not apply to a rifle or shotgun that is an antique firearm
16 as defined in § 4–201 of the Criminal Law Article.

17 (b)] A person may not possess a rifle or shotgun if the person:

18 (1) has been convicted of a disqualifying crime as defined in § 5–101 of this
19 title;

20 (2) has been convicted of a violation classified as a crime under common
21 law and received a term of imprisonment of more than 2 years;

22 (3) is a fugitive from justice;

23 (4) is a habitual drunkard as defined in § 5–101 of this title;

24 (5) is addicted to a controlled dangerous substance or is a habitual user as
25 defined in § 5–101 of this title;

26 (6) suffers from a mental disorder as defined in § 10–101(i)(2) of the Health
27 – General Article and has a history of violent behavior against the person or another;

28 (7) has been found incompetent to stand trial under § 3–106 of the Criminal
29 Procedure Article;

30 (8) has been found not criminally responsible under § 3–110 of the
31 Criminal Procedure Article;

1 (9) has been voluntarily admitted for more than 30 consecutive days to a
2 facility as defined in § 10–101 of the Health – General Article;

3 (10) has been involuntarily committed to a facility as defined in § 10–101 of
4 the Health – General Article;

5 (11) is under the protection of a guardian appointed by a court under §
6 13–201(c) or § 13–705 of the Estates and Trusts Article, except for cases in which the
7 appointment of a guardian is solely a result of a physical disability;

8 (12) except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, is a respondent
9 against whom:

10 (i) a current non ex parte civil protective order has been entered
11 under § 4–506 of the Family Law Article; or

12 (ii) an order for protection, as defined in § 4–508.1 of the Family Law
13 Article, has been issued by a court of another state or a Native American tribe and is in
14 effect; or

15 (13) if under the age of 30 years at the time of possession, has been
16 adjudicated delinquent by a juvenile court for an act that would be a disqualifying crime if
17 committed by an adult.

18 **[(c)](B)** This section does not apply to a person transporting a rifle or shotgun
19 if the person is carrying a civil protective order requiring the surrender of the rifle or
20 shotgun and:

21 (1) the rifle or shotgun is unloaded;

22 (2) the person has notified the law enforcement unit, barracks, or station
23 that the rifle or shotgun is being transported in accordance with the civil protective order;
24 and

25 (3) the person transports the rifle or shotgun directly to the law
26 enforcement unit, barracks, or station.

27 **[(d)](C)** A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on
28 conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 3 years or a fine not exceeding \$1,000
29 or both.

30 **[(e)](D)** A person who is disqualified from owning a rifle or shotgun under
31 subsection **[(b)(6)] (A)(6)**, (7), (8), (9), (10), or (11) of this section may seek relief from the
32 disqualification in accordance with § 5–133.3 of this title.

33 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
34 October 1, 2016.