

HOUSE BILL 1267

E4
HB 781/19 – JUD

0lr3114

By: **Delegates McComas, Szeliga, Anderton, Arikan, Buckel, Chisholm, Ciliberti, Corderman, Cox, Grammer, Hornberger, Kipke, Krebs, Malone, Mangione, Mautz, Morgan, Pippy, and Shoemaker**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2020

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Safety – Handgun Permit – Church Property**
3 **(Worshipper Protection Act of 2020)**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing a person who has the consent of a certain church to carry
5 a handgun on the property of the church during certain events, and who has the
6 intent to carry, wear, or transport a handgun for certain purposes on the property of
7 the church to carry, without a permit, a handgun on the property of the church
8 during certain events and to transport a handgun to and from certain church events
9 under certain circumstances; and generally relating to permits to carry, wear, or
10 transport a handgun.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
12 Article – Public Safety
13 Section 5–303
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

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

18 **Article – Public Safety**

19 5–303.

20 **(A) [A] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION,** A person
21 shall have a permit issued under this subtitle before the person carries, wears, or transports
22 a handgun.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(B) A PERSON WHO HAS THE WRITTEN CONSENT OF THE GOVERNING BOARD**
2 **OF A BONA FIDE CHURCH TO CARRY A HANDGUN ON THE PROPERTY OF THE CHURCH**
3 **DURING SERVICES AND GATHERINGS, AND WHO HAS THE INTENT TO CARRY, WEAR,**
4 **OR TRANSPORT A HANDGUN FOR PURPOSES RELATED TO SELF-PROTECTION OR THE**
5 **PROTECTION OF OTHERS WHILE ON THE PROPERTY OF THE CHURCH MAY, WITHOUT**
6 **A PERMIT, WITH ADVANCE NOTICE TO THE PRIMARY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY OF**
7 **THE COUNTY:**

8 **(1) CARRY A HANDGUN ON THE PROPERTY OF THE CHURCH DURING**
9 **SERVICES AND GATHERINGS; AND**

10 **(2) TRANSPORT A HANDGUN TO AND FROM SERVICES AND**
11 **GATHERINGS OF THE CHURCH.**

12 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
13 October 1, 2020.