

HOUSE BILL 824

E4

3lr2519

By: **Delegates Clippinger, Bartlett, Cardin, Conaway, Crutchfield, Embry, Kaufman, Moon, Pasteur, Phillips, Simmons, Simpson, Taylor, Toles, Williams, and Young**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2023

Assigned to: Judiciary

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 6, 2023

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Safety – Regulated Firearms – Possession and Permits to Carry, Wear,**
3 **and Transport a Handgun**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the disqualifiers for possession of a regulated firearm; altering
5 the maximum fees, and qualifications for issuance, ~~and the renewal period~~ for a
6 permit to carry, wear, or transport a handgun; altering a provision of law to require,
7 rather than authorize, the Secretary of State Police to revoke a certain permit on a
8 finding that the holder does not meet certain qualifications; requiring the Secretary
9 to regularly review certain information in a certain manner to determine whether
10 certain permit holders continue to meet certain requirements, take reasonable steps
11 to ensure the surrender of certain firearms under certain circumstances, and provide
12 certain notice to a certain applicant under certain circumstances; altering a certain
13 reporting requirement; requiring the Deputy Secretary for Public Health Services to
14 develop a youth suicide prevention and firearm safe storage guide; and generally
15 relating to regulated firearms.

16 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

17 Article – Criminal Law

18 Section 4–104(a), (b), and (c)

19 Annotated Code of Maryland

20 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

21 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 Article – Criminal Law
 2 Section ~~4–104(a)(1), (3), and (4), (c), and (d)~~ 4–104(d)
 3 Annotated Code of Maryland
 4 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

5 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 6 Article – Public Safety
 7 Section 5–133, 5–304, 5–306, and ~~5–309~~ 5–310 through 5–312
 8 Annotated Code of Maryland
 9 (2022 Replacement Volume)

10 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
 11 Article – Public Safety
 12 Section 5–301(a), (b), (c), and (e) ~~and~~, 5–303, and 5–309
 13 Annotated Code of Maryland
 14 (2022 Replacement Volume)

15 BY adding to
 16 Article – Health – General
 17 Section 13–39A–01 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 39A. Youth Suicide
 18 Prevention and Firearm Safe Storage”
 19 Annotated Code of Maryland
 20 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

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

23 Article – Criminal Law

24 4–104.

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

26 (2) “Ammunition” means a cartridge, shell, or other device containing
 27 explosive or incendiary material designed and intended for use in a firearm.

28 (3) ~~“Child” means an individual under the age of 16 years.~~

29 ~~(4)~~ (i) “Firearm” means a handgun, rifle, shotgun, short-barreled rifle,
 30 or short-barreled shotgun, as those terms are defined in § 4–201 of this title, or any other
 31 firearm.

32 (ii) “Firearm” does not include an antique firearm as defined in §
 33 4–201 of this title.

34 (b) This section does not apply if:

1 **(4) (I) HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF A SECOND OR SUBSEQUENT**
2 **VIOLATION OF § 4-104 OF THE CRIMINAL LAW ARTICLE; OR**

3 **(II) HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF A VIOLATION OF § 4-104 OF THE**
4 **CRIMINAL LAW ARTICLE IF THE VIOLATION RESULTED IN THE USE OF A LOADED**
5 **FIREARM BY A CHILD CAUSING DEATH OR SERIOUS BODILY INJURY TO THE CHILD**
6 **OR ANOTHER PERSON;**

7 **[(3)] (5)** is a fugitive from justice;

8 **[(4)] (6)** is a habitual drunkard;

9 **[(5)] (7)** is addicted to a controlled dangerous substance or is a habitual
10 user;

11 **[(6)] (8)** suffers from a mental disorder as defined in § 10-101(i)(2) of the
12 Health – General Article and has a history of violent behavior against the person or
13 another;

14 **[(7)] (9)** has been found incompetent to stand trial under § 3-106 of the
15 Criminal Procedure Article;

16 **[(8)] (10)** has been found not criminally responsible under § 3-110 of the
17 Criminal Procedure Article;

18 **[(9)] (11)** has been voluntarily admitted for more than 30 consecutive days
19 to a facility as defined in § 10-101 of the Health – General Article;

20 **[(10)] (12)** has been involuntarily committed to a facility as defined in §
21 10-101 of the Health – General Article;

22 **[(11)] (13)** is under the protection of a guardian appointed by a court under
23 § 13-201(c) or § 13-705 of the Estates and Trusts Article, except for cases in which the
24 appointment of a guardian is solely a result of a physical disability;

25 **[(12)] (14)** except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, is a
26 respondent against whom:

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

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

1 [(13)] (15) if under the age of 30 years at the time of possession, has been
2 adjudicated delinquent by a juvenile court for an act that would be a disqualifying crime if
3 committed by an adult.

4 (c) (1) A person may not possess a regulated firearm if the person was
5 previously convicted of:

6 (i) a crime of violence;

7 (ii) a violation of § 5–602, § 5–603, § 5–604, § 5–605, § 5–612, §
8 5–613, § 5–614, § 5–621, or § 5–622 of the Criminal Law Article; or

9 (iii) an offense under the laws of another state or the United States
10 that would constitute one of the crimes listed in item (i) or (ii) of this paragraph if committed
11 in this State.

12 (2) (i) Subject to paragraph (3) of this subsection, a person who violates
13 this subsection is guilty of a felony and on conviction is subject to imprisonment for not less
14 than 5 years and not exceeding 15 years.

15 (ii) The court may not suspend any part of the mandatory minimum
16 sentence of 5 years.

17 (iii) Except as otherwise provided in § 4–305 of the Correctional
18 Services Article, the person is not eligible for parole during the mandatory minimum
19 sentence.

20 (3) At the time of the commission of the offense, if a period of more than 5
21 years has elapsed since the person completed serving the sentence for the most recent
22 conviction under paragraph (1)(i) or (ii) of this subsection, including all imprisonment,
23 mandatory supervision, probation, and parole:

24 (i) the imposition of the mandatory minimum sentence is within the
25 discretion of the court; and

26 (ii) the mandatory minimum sentence may not be imposed unless
27 the State's Attorney notifies the person in writing at least 30 days before trial of the State's
28 intention to seek the mandatory minimum sentence.

29 (4) Each violation of this subsection is a separate crime.

30 (5) A person convicted under this subsection is not prohibited from
31 participating in a drug treatment program under § 8–507 of the Health – General Article
32 because of the length of the sentence.

33 (d) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, a person who is
34 under the age of 21 years may not possess a regulated firearm.

1 (2) Unless a person is otherwise prohibited from possessing a regulated
2 firearm, this subsection does not apply to:

3 (i) the temporary transfer or possession of a regulated firearm if the
4 person is:

5 1. under the supervision of another who is at least 21 years
6 old and who is not prohibited by State or federal law from possessing a firearm; and

7 2. acting with the permission of the parent or legal guardian
8 of the transferee or person in possession;

9 (ii) the transfer by inheritance of title, and not of possession, of a
10 regulated firearm;

11 (iii) a member of the armed forces of the United States or the
12 National Guard while performing official duties;

13 (iv) the temporary transfer or possession of a regulated firearm if the
14 person is:

15 1. participating in marksmanship training of a recognized
16 organization; and

17 2. under the supervision of a qualified instructor;

18 (v) a person who is required to possess a regulated firearm for
19 employment and who holds a permit under Subtitle 3 of this title; or

20 (vi) the possession of a firearm for self-defense or the defense of
21 others against a trespasser into the residence of the person in possession or into a residence
22 in which the person in possession is an invited guest.

23 (e) This section does not apply to a respondent transporting a regulated firearm
24 if the respondent is carrying a civil protective order requiring the surrender of the regulated
25 firearm and:

26 (1) the regulated firearm is unloaded;

27 (2) the respondent has notified the law enforcement unit, barracks, or
28 station that the regulated firearm is being transported in accordance with the civil
29 protective order; and

30 (3) the respondent transports the regulated firearm directly to the law
31 enforcement unit, barracks, or station.

1 (f) This section does not apply to the carrying or transporting of a regulated
2 firearm by a person who is carrying a court order requiring the surrender of the regulated
3 firearm, if:

4 (1) the firearm is unloaded;

5 (2) the person has notified a law enforcement unit, barracks, or station that
6 the firearm is being transported in accordance with the order; and

7 (3) the person transports the firearm directly to a State or local law
8 enforcement agency or a federally licensed firearms dealer.

9 **(G) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (B)(4) OF THIS SECTION, A PERSON WHO HAS**
10 **BEEN CONVICTED OF A VIOLATION OF § 4-104 OF THE CRIMINAL LAW ARTICLE MAY**
11 **NOT POSSESS A REGULATED FIREARM FOR 5 YEARS FOLLOWING THE DATE OF THE**
12 **CONVICTION.**

13 5-301.

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

15 (b) “Handgun” has the meaning stated in § 4-201 of the Criminal Law Article.

16 (c) “Permit” means a permit issued by the Secretary to carry, wear, or transport
17 a handgun.

18 (e) “Secretary” means the Secretary of State Police or the Secretary’s designee.

19 5-303.

20 A person shall have a permit issued under this subtitle before the person carries,
21 wears, or transports a handgun.

22 5-304.

23 (a) An application for a permit shall be made under oath.

24 (b) (1) Subject to subsections (c) and (d) of this section, the Secretary may
25 charge a nonrefundable fee payable when an application is filed for a permit.

26 (2) The fee may not exceed:

27 (i) **[\$75] \$150** for an initial application;

28 (ii) **[\$50] \$100** for a renewal or subsequent application; and

1 (iii) ~~[\$10]~~ **\$20** for a duplicate or modified permit.

2 (3) The fees under this subsection are in addition to the fees authorized
3 under § 5–305 of this subtitle.

4 (c) The Secretary may reduce the fee under subsection (b) of this section
5 accordingly for a permit that is granted for one day only and at one place only.

6 (d) The Secretary may not charge a fee under subsection (b) of this section to:

7 (1) a State, county, or municipal public safety employee who is required to
8 carry, wear, or transport a handgun as a condition of governmental employment; or

9 (2) a retired law enforcement officer of the State or a county or municipal
10 corporation of the State.

11 (e) The applicant shall pay a fee under this section by an electronic check, a credit
12 card, or a method of online payment approved by the Secretary.

13 5–306.

14 (a) Subject to [subsection] **SUBSECTIONS (c) AND (D)** of this section, the
15 Secretary shall issue a permit within a reasonable time to a person who the Secretary finds:

16 (1) **(I) is [an adult] AT LEAST 21 YEARS OLD; OR**

17 **(II) IS ~~AN ADULT~~ A PERSON WHO IS A MEMBER OF THE ARMED**
18 **FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES OR, THE NATIONAL GUARD, OR THE UNIFORMED**
19 **SERVICES;**

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

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

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

26 **(4) IS NOT ON SUPERVISED PROBATION FOR:**

27 **(I) CONVICTION OF A CRIME PUNISHABLE BY IMPRISONMENT**
28 **FOR 1 YEAR OR MORE;**

29 **(II) A VIOLATION OF § 21–902(B) OR (C) OF THE**
30 **TRANSPORTATION ARTICLE; OR**

1 **4. STATE SELF-DEFENSE LAW, INCLUDING:**

2 **A. THE JUSTIFIABLE USE OF FORCE OR DEADLY FORCE;**
3 **AND**

4 **B. THE PROPORTIONAL USE OF FORCE IN**
5 **SELF-DEFENSE AND CONFLICT DE-ESCALATION AND RESOLUTION; AND**

6 (iii) a firearms qualification component that [demonstrates the
7 applicant's proficiency and use of the firearm] **INCLUDES LIVE-FIRE SHOOTING**
8 **EXERCISES ON A FIRING RANGE AND REQUIRES THE APPLICANT TO DEMONSTRATE:**

9 **1. SAFE HANDLING OF A HANDGUN; AND**

10 **2. SHOOTING PROFICIENCY WITH A HANDGUN; and**

11 **[(6)] (10)** based on an investigation:

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

15 (ii) [has good and substantial reason to wear, carry, or transport a
16 handgun, such as a finding that the permit is necessary as a reasonable precaution against
17 apprehended danger] **IS NOT OTHERWISE PROHIBITED BY STATE OR FEDERAL LAW**
18 **FROM PURCHASING OR POSSESSING A HANDGUN.**

19 (b) An applicant for a permit is not required to complete a certified firearms
20 training course under subsection (a) of this section if the applicant:

21 (1) is a law enforcement officer or a person who is retired in good standing
22 from service with a law enforcement agency of the United States, the State, or any local
23 law enforcement agency in the State;

24 (2) is a member, retired member, or honorably discharged member of the
25 armed forces of the United States or the National Guard;

26 (3) is a qualified handgun instructor; or

27 (4) has completed a firearms training course approved by the Secretary.

28 (c) An applicant under the age of 30 years is qualified only if the Secretary finds
29 that the applicant has not been:

1 (1) committed to a detention, training, or correctional institution for
2 juveniles for longer than 1 year after an adjudication of delinquency by a juvenile court; or

3 (2) adjudicated delinquent by a juvenile court for:

4 (i) an act that would be a crime of violence if committed by an adult;

5 (ii) an act that would be a felony in this State if committed by an
6 adult; or

7 (iii) an act that would be a misdemeanor in this State that carries a
8 statutory penalty of more than 2 years if committed by an adult.

9 **(D) (1) THE SECRETARY MAY NOT ISSUE A PERMIT TO A PERSON IF THE**
10 **PERSON:**

11 **(I) HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF A SECOND OR SUBSEQUENT**
12 **VIOLATION OF § 4-104 OF THE CRIMINAL LAW ARTICLE; OR**

13 **(II) HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF A VIOLATION OF § 4-104 OF THE**
14 **CRIMINAL LAW ARTICLE IF THE VIOLATION RESULTED IN THE USE OF A LOADED**
15 **FIREARM BY A CHILD CAUSING DEATH OR SERIOUS BODILY INJURY TO THE CHILD**
16 **OR ANOTHER PERSON.**

17 **(2) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE**
18 **SECRETARY MAY NOT ISSUE A PERMIT TO A PERSON WHO HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF**
19 **A VIOLATION OF § 4-104 OF THE CRIMINAL LAW ARTICLE FOR 5 YEARS FOLLOWING**
20 **THE DATE OF THE CONVICTION.**

21 **[(d)] (E)** The Secretary may issue a handgun qualification license, without an
22 additional application or fee, to a person who:

23 (1) meets the requirements for issuance of a permit under this section; and

24 (2) does not have a handgun qualification license issued under § 5-117.1 of
25 this title.

26 5-309.

27 (a) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, a permit expires on the
28 last day of the holder's birth month following 2 years after the date the permit is issued.

29 (b) Subject to subsection (c) of this section, a permit may be renewed for
30 successive periods of ~~3~~ 2 years each if, at the time of an application for renewal, the
31 applicant possesses the qualifications for the issuance of a permit and pays the renewal fee
32 stated in this subtitle.

1 (c) A person who applies for a renewal of a permit is not required to be
2 fingerprinted unless the Secretary requires a set of the person's fingerprints to resolve a
3 question of the person's identity.

4 (d) The Secretary may establish an alternative expiration date for a permit to
5 coincide with the expiration of a license, certification, or commission for:

6 (1) a private detective under Title 13 of the Business Occupations and
7 Professions Article;

8 (2) a security guard under Title 19 of the Business Occupations and
9 Professions Article; or

10 (3) a special police officer under § 3-306 of this article.

11 5-310.

12 (a) (1) The Secretary [may revoke a permit on a finding that the holder]
13 **SHALL:**

14 [(1)] (I) **REVOKE A PERMIT ON A FINDING THAT THE HOLDER** does not
15 meet the qualifications described in § 5-306 of this subtitle; [or] **AND**

16 [(2)] (II) **REGULARLY REVIEW INFORMATION REGARDING ACTIVE**
17 **PERMIT HOLDERS USING THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION SYSTEM CENTRAL**
18 **REPOSITORY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL**
19 **SERVICES TO DETERMINE WHETHER ALL PERMIT HOLDERS CONTINUE TO MEET THE**
20 **QUALIFICATIONS DESCRIBED IN § 5-306 OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

21 (B) **THE SECRETARY MAY REVOKE A PERMIT ON A FINDING THAT THE**
22 **HOLDER** violated § 5-308 of this subtitle.

23 (C) **IF THE SECRETARY REVOKES A PERMIT UNDER THIS SECTION FROM A**
24 **PERSON THE SECRETARY DETERMINES IS PROHIBITED FROM POSSESSING A**
25 **REGULATED FIREARM UNDER § 5-133 OF THIS TITLE, THE SECRETARY SHALL TAKE**
26 **REASONABLE STEPS TO ENSURE THE SURRENDER OF ANY REGULATED FIREARMS IN**
27 **THE PERSON'S POSSESSION.**

28 [(b)] (D) A holder of a permit that is revoked by the Secretary shall return the
29 permit to the Secretary within 10 days after receipt of written notice of the revocation.

30 5-311.

1 **(A) IF THE SECRETARY DENIES A PERMIT OR RENEWAL OF A PERMIT OR**
2 **REVOKEES OR LIMITS A PERMIT, THE SECRETARY SHALL PROVIDE WRITTEN NOTICE**
3 **OF THAT INITIAL ACTION TO THE APPLICANT, INCLUDING A DETAILED EXPLANATION**
4 **OF THE REASON OR REASONS FOR THE INITIAL ACTION.**

5 **[(a)] (B)** A person who is denied a permit or renewal of a permit or whose permit
6 is revoked or limited may request the Secretary to conduct an informal review by filing a
7 written request within 10 days after receipt of **THE** written notice of the Secretary's initial
8 action **UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION.**

9 **[(b)] (C)** An informal review:

10 (1) may include a personal interview of the person who requested the
11 informal review; and

12 (2) is not subject to Title 10, Subtitle 2 of the State Government Article.

13 **[(c)] (D) (1)** In an informal review, the Secretary shall sustain, reverse, or
14 modify the initial action taken and notify the person who requested the informal review of
15 the decision in writing within 30 days after receipt of the request for informal review.

16 **(2) THE WRITTEN NOTICE OF THE RESULTS OF THE SECRETARY'S**
17 **INFORMAL REVIEW UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL INCLUDE A**
18 **DETAILED EXPLANATION OF THE REASON OR REASONS FOR THE SECRETARY'S**
19 **DECISION TO SUSTAIN, REVERSE, OR MODIFY THE INITIAL ACTION.**

20 **[(d)] (E)** A person need not file a request for an informal review under this
21 section before requesting review under § 5–312 of this subtitle.

22 5–312.

23 (a) (1) A person who is denied a permit or renewal of a permit or whose permit
24 is revoked or limited may request to appeal the decision of the Secretary to the Office of
25 Administrative Hearings by filing a written request with the Secretary and the Office of
26 Administrative Hearings within 10 days after receipt of written notice of the Secretary's
27 **[final]** action.

28 (2) A person whose application for a permit or renewal of a permit is not
29 acted on by the Secretary within 90 days after submitting the application to the Secretary
30 may request a hearing before the Office of Administrative Hearings by filing a written
31 request with the Secretary and the Office of Administrative Hearings.

32 (b) (1) Within 60 days after the receipt of a request under subsection (a) of this
33 section from the applicant or the holder of the permit, the Office of Administrative Hearings
34 shall schedule and conduct a de novo hearing on the matter, at which witness testimony
35 and other evidence may be provided.

1 (2) Within 90 days after the conclusion of the last hearing on the matter,
2 the Office of Administrative Hearings shall issue a **WRITTEN** finding of facts and a decision.

3 (3) A party that is aggrieved by the decision of the Office of Administrative
4 Hearings may appeal the decision to the circuit court.

5 (c) (1) Subject to subsection (b) of this section, any hearing and any
6 subsequent proceedings of judicial review shall be conducted in accordance with Title 10,
7 Subtitle 2 of the State Government Article.

8 (2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1) of this subsection, a court may not order
9 the issuance or renewal of a permit or alter a limitation on a permit pending a final
10 determination of the proceeding.

11 (d) On or before January 1[, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022,] **EACH YEAR**
12 **BEGINNING IN 2024, THE SECRETARY AND** the Office of Administrative Hearings shall
13 report to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article,
14 the General Assembly:

15 (1) the number of appeals of decisions by the Secretary that have been filed
16 with the Office of Administrative Hearings within the previous year;

17 (2) the number of decisions by the Secretary that have been sustained,
18 modified, or reversed by the Office of Administrative Hearings within the previous year;

19 (3) the number of appeals that are pending; **[and]**

20 (4) the number of appeals that have been withdrawn within the previous
21 year;

22 **(5) THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PERMIT APPLICATIONS THAT WERE**
23 **SUBMITTED TO THE SECRETARY WITHIN THE PREVIOUS YEAR, BROKEN DOWN BY**
24 **COUNTY IN WHICH THE APPLICANTS RESIDE, AS WELL AS THE RACE, AGE, AND**
25 **GENDER OF THE APPLICANTS;**

26 **(6) THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PERMIT APPLICATIONS THAT WERE**
27 **GRANTED BY THE SECRETARY WITHIN THE PREVIOUS YEAR, BROKEN DOWN BY**
28 **COUNTY IN WHICH THE APPLICANTS RESIDE, AS WELL AS THE RACE, AGE, AND**
29 **GENDER OF THE APPLICANTS;**

30 **(7) THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PERMIT APPLICATIONS THAT WERE**
31 **DENIED BY THE SECRETARY WITHIN THE PREVIOUS YEAR, BROKEN DOWN BY**
32 **COUNTY IN WHICH THE APPLICANTS RESIDE, AS WELL AS THE RACE, AGE, AND**
33 **GENDER OF THE APPLICANTS;**

1 **(8) THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PERMIT APPLICATIONS THAT WERE**
2 **REVOKED WITHIN THE PREVIOUS YEAR, BROKEN DOWN BY COUNTY IN WHICH THE**
3 **APPLICANTS RESIDE, AS WELL AS THE RACE, AGE, AND GENDER OF THE APPLICANTS;**
4 **AND**

5 **(9) THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PERMIT APPLICATIONS FILED WITH THE**
6 **SECRETARY THAT ARE PENDING AT THE TIME OF THE ISSUANCE OF THE REPORT,**
7 **BROKEN DOWN BY COUNTY IN WHICH THE APPLICANTS RESIDE, AS WELL AS THE**
8 **RACE, AGE, AND GENDER OF THE APPLICANTS.**

9 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read
10 as follows:

11 Article – Health – General

12 SUBTITLE 39A. YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION AND FIREARM SAFE STORAGE.

13 13-39A-01.

14 **(A) IN THIS SECTION, “GUIDE” MEANS THE YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION**
15 **AND FIREARM SAFE STORAGE GUIDE DEVELOPED UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS**
16 **SECTION.**

17 **(B) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2024, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR**
18 **PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES SHALL DEVELOP A YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION AND**
19 **FIREARM SAFE STORAGE GUIDE.**

20 **(C) THE GUIDE DEVELOPED UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION**
21 **SHALL:**

22 **(1) PROVIDE A DESCRIPTION OF THE FIREARM AND AMMUNITION**
23 **REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED UNDER § 4-104(B)(4) AND (5) OF THE CRIMINAL LAW**
24 **ARTICLE;**

25 **(2) IDENTIFY THE RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH UNSAFE FIREARM**
26 **STORAGE FOR MINORS, INCLUDING:**

27 **(I) SUICIDE;**

28 **(II) DEATH OR SERIOUS BODILY INJURY FROM ACCIDENTAL**
29 **DISCHARGE; AND**

30 **(III) SHOOTING INCIDENTS INVOLVING MINORS; AND**

1 **(3) INCORPORATE BEST PRACTICES FOR FIREARM AND AMMUNITION**
2 **SAFE STORAGE.**

3 **(D) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:**

4 **(1) POST THE GUIDE ON ITS WEBSITE;**

5 **(2) MAKE AN ELECTRONIC VERSION OF THE GUIDE AVAILABLE TO**
6 **FAMILIES, HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES PROVIDERS, AND ANY OTHER ENTITIES**
7 **THAT HAVE AN INTEREST IN YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION OR FIREARMS STORAGE,**
8 **INCLUDING:**

9 **(I) BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGRAMS;**

10 **(II) THE DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE SERVICES;**

11 **(III) FIREARMS DEALERS LICENSED BY THE FEDERAL**
12 **GOVERNMENT;**

13 **(IV) LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS;**

14 **(V) LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEMS;**

15 **(VI) THE MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF NONPUBLIC SPECIAL**
16 **EDUCATION FACILITIES;**

17 **(VII) THE MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF YOUTH SERVICE**
18 **BUREAUS;**

19 **(VIII) STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES; AND**

20 **(IX) THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.**

21 **SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:**

22 **(a) The Deputy Secretary for Public Health Services shall establish a stakeholder**
23 **advisory committee to make recommendations regarding the development of the youth**
24 **suicide prevention and firearm safe storage guide under § 13-39A-01 of the**
25 **Health – General Article, as enacted by Section 2 of this Act.**

26 **(b) The stakeholder advisory committee established under subsection (a) of this**
27 **section shall include:**

28 **(1) behavioral health practitioners;**

- 1 (2) experts on best practices for firearm and ammunition storage;
- 2 (3) families impacted by the risk of suicide by minors;
- 3 (4) health care professionals; and
- 4 (5) youth advocates.

5 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before December 31,
6 2024, December 31, 2025, and December 31, 2026, the Deputy Secretary for Public Health
7 Services shall report to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State
8 Government Article, on how State and local agencies have distributed the youth suicide
9 prevention and firearm safe storage guide developed under § 13-39A-01 of the
10 Health – General Article, as enacted by Section 2 of this Act.

11 SECTION ~~5~~ 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, if any provision of this Act
12 or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid for any reason in a
13 court of competent jurisdiction, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or any other
14 application of this Act that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application,
15 and for this purpose the provisions of this Act are declared severable.

16 SECTION ~~6~~ 6. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
17 October 1, 2023.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.