

# HOUSE BILL 1301

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By: **Delegates Baker, Bouchat, Buckel, Griffith, Hinebaugh, Hornberger, McComas, Miller, Reilly, Rose, Stonko, Valentine, and Wivell**

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2024

Assigned to: Judiciary

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Wearing, Carrying, or Transporting Firearms – Business Sign Posting**  
3 **Requirements**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring a business that does not want firearms on the business's  
5 property to post a certain sign in a certain location; and generally relating to the  
6 wearing, carrying, or transporting of firearms.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

8 Article – Criminal Law

9 Section 4–111(a), (d), and (f) through (i)

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

13 Article – Criminal Law

14 Section 4–111(c) and (e)

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

17 BY adding to

18 Article – Criminal Law

19 Section 4–111(f)

20 Annotated Code of Maryland

21 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2023 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**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 4–111.

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

3 (2) “Area for children and vulnerable individuals” means:

4 (i) a preschool or prekindergarten facility or the grounds of the  
5 facility;

6 (ii) a private primary or secondary school or the grounds of the  
7 school; or

8 (iii) a health care facility, as defined in § 15–10B–01(g)(1), (2), (3),  
9 and (4) of the Insurance Article.

10 **(3) “BUSINESS” MEANS AN ORGANIZATION OR ENTERPRISING ENTITY**  
11 **THAT ENGAGES IN PROFESSIONAL, COMMERCIAL, OR INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES.**

12 **[(3)] (4)** “Firearm” has the meaning stated in § 4–104 of this subtitle.

13 **[(4)] (5)** “Government or public infrastructure area” means:

14 (i) a building or any part of a building owned or leased by a unit of  
15 State or local government;

16 (ii) a building of a public or private institution of higher education,  
17 as defined in § 10–101 of the Education Article;

18 (iii) a location that is currently being used as a polling place in  
19 accordance with Title 10 of the Election Law Article or for canvassing ballots in accordance  
20 with Title 11 of the Election Law Article;

21 (iv) an electric plant or electric storage facility, as defined in § 1–101  
22 of the Public Utilities Article;

23 (v) a gas plant, as defined in § 1–101 of the Public Utilities Article;  
24 or

25 (vi) a nuclear power plant facility.

26 **[(5)] (6)** “Law enforcement official” has the meaning stated in § 4–201 of  
27 this article.

28 **[(6)] (7)** “Police officer” has the meaning stated in § 3–201 of the Public  
29 Safety Article.

1            ~~[(7)]~~ **(8)**        “ROTC” means Reserve Officer Training Corps.

2            ~~[(8)]~~ **(9)**        “Special purpose area” means:

3                            (i)     a location licensed to sell or dispense alcohol or cannabis for  
4 on-site consumption;

5                            (ii)    a stadium;

6                            (iii)   a museum;

7                            (iv)    an amusement park;

8                            (v)     a racetrack; or

9                            (vi)    a video lottery facility, as defined in § 9-1A-01 of the State  
10 Government Article.

11            (c)     A person may not wear, carry, or transport a firearm in an area for children  
12 or vulnerable individuals.

13            (d)     (1)     A person may not wear, carry, or transport a firearm in a government  
14 or public infrastructure area.

15                            (2)     A government or public infrastructure area specified under subsection  
16 ~~[(a)(4)(i)]~~ **(A)(5)(I)** of this section must display a clear and conspicuous sign at the main  
17 entrance of the building or the part of a building that is owned or leased by the unit of State  
18 or local government indicating that it is not permissible to wear, carry, or transport a  
19 firearm in the building or that part of the building.

20            (e)     A person may not wear, carry, or transport a firearm in a special purpose area.

21            **(F)    (1)     A BUSINESS THAT DOES NOT WANT FIREARMS ON THE BUSINESS’S**  
22 **PROPERTY SHALL POST A CLEAR AND CONSPICUOUS SIGN AT THE MAIN OR ANY**  
23 **SECONDARY ENTRANCE OF THE BUSINESS AT LEAST 24 INCHES FROM THE EDGE OF**  
24 **THE ENTRYWAY AND 4 FEET OFF THE GROUND, THAT:**

25                            **(I)     STATES THAT IT IS NOT PERMISSIBLE TO WEAR, CARRY, OR**  
26 **TRANSPORT A FIREARM ON THE BUSINESS’S PROPERTY; AND**

27                            **(II)    IS AT LEAST 12 INCHES WIDE BY 18 INCHES LONG.**

28                            **(2)     IF THE BUSINESS IS A PRIVATE BUSINESS, THE SIGN REQUIRED**  
29 **UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL ALSO INCLUDE THE BUSINESS’S**  
30 **ADDRESS CLEARLY AND CONSPICUOUSLY ON THE FRONT OF THE SIGN.**

1           **[(f)] (G)**       A person who willfully violates subsection (c), (d)(1), or (e) of this section  
2 is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 1  
3 year or a fine not exceeding \$1,000 or both.

4           **[(g)] (H)**       (1)    A conviction under this section may not merge with a conviction  
5 for any other crime based on the act establishing the violation of this section.

6                       (2)    A sentence imposed under this section may be imposed separate from  
7 and consecutive to or concurrent with a sentence for any crime based on the act establishing  
8 the violation of this section.

9           **[(h)] (I)**       For purposes of this section, a requirement to keep a handgun concealed  
10 is not violated by:

11                       (1)    the momentary and inadvertent exposure of a handgun; or

12                       (2)    the momentary and inadvertent exposure of the imprint or outline of a  
13 handgun.

14           **[(i)] (J)**       Nothing in this section limits the power of an administrative head of a  
15 Maryland court to punish for contempt or to adopt rules or orders regulating, allowing,  
16 restricting, or prohibiting the possession of weapons in any building housing the court or  
17 any of its proceedings, or on any grounds appurtenant to the building.

18           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
19 October 1, 2024.