

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 303 (Delegate Grammer)
Government, Labor, and Elections

Handguns - Wear, Carry, and Transport Laws - Handbook Publication

This bill requires the Office of the Attorney General (OAG), by October 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, to publish a handbook summarizing all State laws, federal laws, and case law that are applicable to the wearing, carrying, and transporting of a handgun in public in the State. OAG must draft the handbook (1) in plain language that can be easily understood without any special knowledge of the applicable State laws, federal laws, or case law and (2) in a format that can be easily used to teach a required firearm safety course. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: OAG can draft and publish the handbook each year using existing budgeted resources; thus, the bill is not anticipated to materially affect State finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law:

Summary of Firearms Laws

Chapter 651 of 2023 requires the Department of State Police to transmit a summary of each new law or change to each existing law pertaining to firearms that was passed by the General Assembly during each legislative session to each email address on file with the department that is associated with (1) the purchaser or transferee of a regulated firearm or (2) a person who has registered a regulated firearm with the department. The summary must be transmitted (1) within 45 days after the General Assembly adjourns Sine Die in a legislative session; (2) 30 days before the effective date of the act, for each act establishing

a new law or change to an existing law pertaining to firearms; and (3) as soon as practicable if an act is designated as an emergency act.

Firearms Training Course for Handgun Permit Applicants

A handgun permit applicant must successfully complete, prior to the application and each renewal, a firearms training course approved by the Secretary of State Police that includes (1) for an initial application, a minimum of 16 hours of instruction by a qualified handgun instructor, or 8 hours of instruction for a renewal application; (2) classroom instruction on State and federal firearm laws, home firearm safety, handgun mechanisms and operations, conflict de-escalation and resolution, anger management, and suicide prevention; and (3) a firearm qualification component that includes live-fire shooting exercise on a firing range and requires the applicant to demonstrate safe handling of a handgun and shooting proficiency with a handgun.

An applicant for a permit is not required to complete a certified firearms training course if the applicant:

- is a law enforcement officer or a person who is retired in good standing from service with a law enforcement agency of the United States, the State, or any local law enforcement agency in the State;
- is a member, retired member, or honorably discharged member of the U.S. Armed Forces or the National Guard;
- is a qualified handgun instructor; or
- has completed a firearms training course approved by the Secretary.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has been introduced within the last three years. See SB 501 and HB 1166 of 2024.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Office of the Attorney General; Department of State Police; Department of Legislative Services

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jg/lgc

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