

# HOUSE BILL 717

E4

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By: **Delegates Smigiel, Afzali, Aumann, Bromwell, Cluster, Elliott, George, Glass, K. Kelly, Kipke, Krebs, McComas, W. Miller, Ready, Schulz, Stocksdale, Szeliga, and Vitale**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2014

Assigned to: Judiciary

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Safety – Firearms Safety Training – Demonstration Component**

3 FOR the purpose of repealing a requirement that a certain firearms safety training  
4 course necessary for the issuance of a handgun qualification license include a  
5 firearms orientation component that demonstrates the person's safe operation  
6 and handling of a firearm; repealing a requirement that a certain firearms  
7 training course necessary for the issuance of a permit to carry, wear, or  
8 transport a handgun include a firearms qualification component that  
9 demonstrates the applicant's proficiency and use of the firearm; and generally  
10 relating to firearms safety training.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
12 Article – Public Safety  
13 Section 5–117.1(d) and 5–306(a)  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (2011 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

16 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
17 Article – Public Safety  
18 Section 5–301(a) and (d)  
19 Annotated Code of Maryland  
20 (2011 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

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

23 **Article – Public Safety**

24 5–117.1.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (d) Subject to subsections (f) and (g) of this section, the Secretary shall issue  
2 a handgun qualification license to a person who the Secretary finds:

3 (1) is at least 21 years old;

4 (2) is a resident of the State;

5 (3) except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, has  
6 demonstrated satisfactory completion, within 3 years prior to the submission of the  
7 application, of a firearms safety training course approved by the Secretary that  
8 includes:

9 (i) a minimum of 4 hours of instruction by a qualified handgun  
10 instructor; **AND**

11 (ii) classroom instruction on:

12 1. State firearm law;

13 2. home firearm safety; and

14 3. handgun mechanisms and operation; and

15 [(iii) a firearms orientation component that demonstrates the  
16 person's safe operation and handling of a firearm; and]

17 (4) based on an investigation, is not prohibited by federal or State law  
18 from purchasing or possessing a handgun.

19 5-301.

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

21 (d) "Permit" means a permit issued by the Secretary to carry, wear, or  
22 transport a handgun.

23 5-306.

24 (a) Subject to subsection (c) of this section, the Secretary shall issue a permit  
25 within a reasonable time to a person who the Secretary finds:

26 (1) is an adult;

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

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

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

5 (4) is not presently an alcoholic, addict, or habitual user of a controlled  
6 dangerous substance unless the habitual use of the controlled dangerous substance is  
7 under legitimate medical direction;

8 (5) except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, has successfully  
9 completed prior to application and each renewal, a firearms training course approved  
10 by the Secretary that includes:

11 (i) 1. for an initial application, a minimum of 16 hours of  
12 instruction by a qualified handgun instructor; or

13 2. for a renewal application, 8 hours of instruction by a  
14 qualified handgun instructor; **AND**

15 (ii) classroom instruction on:

16 1. State firearm law;

17 2. home firearm safety; and

18 3. handgun mechanisms and operation; and

19 [(iii) a firearms qualification component that demonstrates the  
20 applicant's proficiency and use of the firearm; and]

21 (6) based on an investigation:

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

25 (ii) has good and substantial reason to wear, carry, or transport  
26 a handgun, such as a finding that the permit is necessary as a reasonable precaution  
27 against apprehended danger.

28 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
29 October 1, 2014.