

Terminology

Fully Automatic: Multiple shots, one pull of the trigger

Semi-automatic: One shot, one pull of the trigger

Assault weapon: In Maryland law, an assault weapon is defined as

1. An assault long gun; PS 5-101
2. An assault pistol; CL 4-301
3. A copycat weapon; CL 4-301

Caliber: Diameter (in.) of the inside of the barrel or bore (ex. .32 caliber)

Gauge: Size of a shotgun ball. The smaller the Gauge, the bigger the shotgun ball.

Quick Facts

Both handguns and long guns can be manual, semiautomatic, or fully automatic

The “AR” in AR-15 stands for “Armalite Rifle”, the name of the company that created it ... NOT “Assault Rifle”

Delegate Deb Rey
St. Mary’s County, District 29B
301-858-3227
Deborah.Rey@house.state.md.us

**VERY IMPORTANT for
both parents &
children!**

Firearms Storage and Access-Control:

Criminal Law Article 4-104

A person **may not** store or leave a loaded firearm in a location where the person knew or should have known that an unsupervised child would gain access to it.

1. **A child is anyone under the age of 16.**
2. “Firearm” means a handgun, rifle, shotgun, or short-barreled rifle or shotgun
3. “Firearm” does not include antiques
4. This does not apply if:
 - a) The child’s access to the firearm is supervised by an individual at least 18 years old;
 - b) The child’s access to the firearm was obtained as the result of an unlawful entry;
 - c) The firearm is in the possession or control of a law enforcement officer while the officer is engaged in official duties; or
 - d) The child has a certificate of firearm and hunter safety issued under §10-301.1 of the Natural Resources Article.

Learn About Maryland’s Firearms Laws



RichLegg | Getty Images

Maryland has strict laws governing firearm ownership. Whether you own a firearm, are looking to purchase one, or just want to know more about firearms in Maryland, this pamphlet serves as a basic overview and introduction of the state’s firearm laws.

Maryland does not recognize carry permits from other states.

To apply for a Handgun Qualification License (HQL) or for a Maryland Handgun (Wear & Carry) Permit, please visit the Maryland State Police’s website at mdsp.maryland.gov And search “Licensing division”

Overview of Maryland Firearms Laws

Maryland Firearm Laws

Statutes found at

mgaleg.maryland.gov

Firearm Purchase Application

Public Safety Article Ann. §5-117.1
Public Safety Article Ann. §5-118
Public Safety Article Ann. §5-123
Public Safety Article Ann. §5-128
Public Safety Article Ann. §5-133

Storage and Access

Criminal Law Article Ann. §4-104

Gifting a Firearm

Public Safety Article Ann. §5-136

Carrying a Handgun

Public Safety Article Ann. §5-300 to 314
Criminal Law Article Ann. §4-203

Firearm Crime Punishments

Criminal Law Article Ann. §4-306

List of Regulated Firearms

Public Safety Article Ann. §5-101

A list of legal handguns can be found by searching *Maryland Handgun Roster* on the MD State Police website

Found in **Public Safety Article Title 5 & Criminal Law Article Title 4**

***Handgun ownership:** HQL permit required for handgun sales

***Semi-auto gun / high capacity magazines:** Import of assault weapons prohibited; transfer or sale of over 10 round magazines prohibited

***Machine Gun Ownership:** State registration; otherwise compliance with federal law

***Firearm law uniformity:** Preemption law, uniform throughout state

***Right of Self-Defense:** *Duty to retreat* in public areas

***Open carry:** Prohibited in all public areas

***Concealed carry:** License required; granted on a discretionary basis; no reciprocity for non-residents with carry permits from other states

***Vehicle carry and transportation:** Must remain unloaded and not readily accessible to the driver or passengers; can only transport between areas called out by law

***State Parks:** Possession and carry of firearms prohibited except at designated ranges

***Restaurants serving alcohol:** Permittees may carry while eating in dining areas

***Duty to notify LEO of permit status:** Upon demand of police officer

***Vehicle gun possession at colleges:** Subject to college administrative policy