

HOUSE BILL 538

E4
HB 1502/20 – JUD

1lr1940

By: **Delegate Hartman**

Introduced and read first time: January 15, 2021

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Handgun Permits – Qualifications – High-Risk Occupations**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Secretary of State Police to issue a certain permit to carry,
4 wear, or transport a handgun to a person who meets certain requirements and is
5 employed in a certain profession; and generally relating to permits to carry, wear, or
6 transport a handgun.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 Article – Public Safety
9 Section 5–306(a)
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

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

14 **Article – Public Safety**

15 5–306.

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

18 (1) is an adult;

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

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

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

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

9 (i) 1. For an initial application, a minimum of 16 hours of
10 instruction by a qualified handgun instructor; or

11 2. for a renewal application, 8 hours of instruction by a
12 qualified handgun instructor;

13 (ii) classroom instruction on:

14 1. State firearm law;

15 2. home firearm safety; and

16 3. handgun mechanisms and operation; and

17 (iii) a firearms qualification component that demonstrates the
18 applicant's proficiency and use of the firearm; and

19 (6) based on an investigation:

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

23 (ii) 1. has good and substantial reason to wear, carry, or
24 transport a handgun, such as a finding that the permit is necessary as a reasonable
25 precaution against apprehended danger; **OR**

26 2. **IS EMPLOYED AS:**

27 **A. A CORRECTIONAL OFFICER;**

28 **B. A PAROLE AND PROBATION OFFICER;**

29 **C. A FIREFIGHTER;**

- 1 **D.** AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN;
- 2 **E.** A RESCUE SQUAD MEMBER;
- 3 **F.** A SECURITY GUARD FOR A CHURCH OR RELIGIOUS
- 4 **ORGANIZATION;**
- 5 **G.** A PHYSICIAN;
- 6 **H.** A PHYSICIAN’S ASSISTANT;
- 7 **I.** A NURSE; OR
- 8 **J.** A NURSE PRACTITIONER.

9 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
10 October 1, 2021.