The Maryland “Responsible Gun Safety Act of 2000”

Summary

In April, 2000 Maryland Governor Parris Glendening signed into law one of the most far-reaching state bills addressing firearm safety, gun design and purchasing. The following is a summary of The Responsible Gun Safety Act of 2000 (HB 279/SB 211).

Gun Locks and Gun Safety Design

- A dealer may not sell, offer for sale, rent, or transfer in the state any handgun manufactured on or before December 31, 2002 unless the handgun is sold, offered for sale, rented, or transferred with an external safety lock. An external safety lock is defined as “an external device that is attached to the handgun with a key or combination and is designed to prevent a handgun from being discharged unless the device has been deactivated”.

- Beginning on January 1, 2003, a dealer may not sell, offer for sale, rent or transfer in the state any handgun manufactured after December 31, 2002 unless the handgun has an integrated mechanical safety device. An integrated mechanical safety device is defined as “a disabling or locking device that is built into the handgun and is designed to prevent the handgun from being discharged unless the device has been deactivated”.

- Requires the Handgun Roster Board to review the status of personalized handgun technology and report its findings to the Governor and the General Assembly on an annual basis, beginning on or before July 1, 2002.

Safety Training

- The Maryland Police Training Commission shall adopt regulations by January 1, 2001 for a certified firearms safety training course required for an applicant for a regulated firearm purchase, rental, or transfer made on or after January 1, 2002. Training shall be free to applicants and offered by the Commission. (Present and former law enforcement officers, and some other categories of persons, are exempt from this provision.)

New Prohibited Purchasers and Prohibited Carriers

- Prohibits the possession of a regulated firearm by those under 30 who have previously been adjudicated delinquent by a juvenile court for a crime of violence, any crime classified as a felony, or any misdemeanor with a statutory penalty of more than two years.
• Denies a permit to carry concealed handguns to those under the age of thirty who have been committed to any correctional facility for juveniles longer than one year; those who as juveniles have been adjudicated delinquent for crimes of violence; those adjudicated to have committed any crime classified as a felony or committed any misdemeanor with a statutory penalty of more than two years.

• Denies a permit to carry concealed handguns to those convicted of drug related offenses; and those determined by investigation to have a propensity to be violent or unstable ("a danger to himself or other law-abiding persons").

**Gun Sales**

• Requires that prospective handgun purchasers state under penalty of perjury that they have not been convicted of any crime classified as a felony, or any misdemeanor with a statutory penalty of more than two years; and for prospective purchasers under the age of 30, that they have not been adjudicated delinquent by a juvenile court for a crime of violence.

• Prohibits dealers from selling, renting, or transferring a regulated firearm to any person he knows or has reasonable cause to believe has been adjudicated delinquent by a juvenile court for a crime of violence, any crime classified as a felony, or any misdemeanor with a statutory penalty of more than two years.

• Prohibits dealers from selling, renting or transferring a regulated firearm to any person on or after January 1, 2002 who has not completed a certified firearm safety training course. (Present and former law enforcement officers, and some other categories, are exempt from this provision.)

**Gun Identification**

• Requires that any manufacturer that ships or transports a handgun to be sold, rented or transferred in the state shall include in the box with the handgun in a separate, sealed container a shell casing of a projectile discharged from that handgun and additional information identifying the type of handgun and shell casing. Upon receipt of the handgun, the dealer shall confirm with the State Police that the manufacturer has complied with this provision. Upon sale of the handgun, the dealer shall forward the sealed container to the State Police Crime Laboratory, where it will be entered into all pertinent databases.

**Administration**

• Adds two members to the Handgun Roster Board of the State Police Department, bringing the total members to eleven. The new members shall be mechanical or electrical engineers.
Miscellaneous

- Provides for the disposal of law enforcement-owned handguns by destruction, sale or transfer to another law enforcement agency, sale to retired state police officer, or sale to the law enforcement officer to whom the handgun was assigned.

- Provides for the establishment of an 11 member Cease Fire Council within the State Police Department, to administer a state grant to support innovative and collaborative firearms violence reduction initiatives.

Further Resources:

Website for the Maryland General Assembly: [http://mlis.state.md.us/](http://mlis.state.md.us/)


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THE JOHNS HOPKINS CENTER FOR GUN POLICY AND RESEARCH is dedicated to reducing gun-related injuries and deaths through the application of a public health perspective to the issue of gun violence prevention. Its faculty and affiliated experts have pioneered innovative strategies for reducing gun violence, and achieved a national reputation for high-quality, unbiased policy-relevant research. The Center examines the public health effects of guns in society and serves as an objective resource for the media, policy makers, advocacy groups, and attorneys. In 1995, the Center was formally established with funding from The Joyce Foundation of Chicago.

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