

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2014 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 997
Judiciary

(Delegate Beitzel, *et al.*)

Criminal Law - Competition Shooting and Match Shooting - Firearms Exemption

This bill authorizes the possession or transport to or from a firing range or service rifle match of an assault weapon or a detachable magazine by a person for the exclusive purpose of that person participating in competition shooting or match shooting.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill's changes are procedural in nature and can be accommodated with the existing budgeted resources of the Department of State Police.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal or none.

Analysis

Current Law: With specified exceptions, a person may not (1) wear, carry, or transport a handgun, whether concealed or open, on or about the person or (2) wear, carry, or knowingly transport a handgun, whether concealed or open, in a vehicle traveling on a road or parking lot generally used by the public, highway, waterway, or airway of the State. For the vehicular prohibition, there is a rebuttable presumption that a person who transports the handgun does so knowingly. A violator is guilty of a misdemeanor and, depending on the circumstances of the violation, subject to some mandatory minimum sentence ranging from 30 days to 5 years, and maximum imprisonment penalties of 10 years. For a first offense, the maximum imprisonment penalty is three years. Certain circumstances also subject the person to monetary fines of amounts between \$250 and \$2,500.

The Secretary of State Police may issue a permit to wear, carry, or transport a handgun to a person who meets certain requirements and who has a “good and substantial” reason. “Good and substantial reason” includes a finding that the permit is necessary as a reasonable precautions against apprehended danger.

With certain exceptions, Chapter 427 of 2013 (the Firearm Safety Act of 2013) prohibits transporting, possessing, selling, offering for sale, transferring, purchasing, or receiving any assault weapon. Chapter 427 reduced the allowable detachable magazine capacity that may be manufactured, sold, purchased, received, or transferred in the State from 20 to 10 rounds of ammunition for a firearm. There are nine specified persons and circumstances which are exempt from the prohibitions related to the possession or transport of assault weapons or detachable magazines. This bill creates a tenth exemption.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of State Police, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, Department of Legislative Services

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