

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2015 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 160  
Judiciary

(Delegate Vitale, *et al.*)

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Handgun Locking Devices - Repeal Exclusivity of Internal Locks - Requirements  
for External or Internal Lock System

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This bill allows the sale, rental, or transfer of a handgun in the State with an “external safety lock” as an alternative to an “integrated mechanical safety device.”

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None. The bill does not materially affect State operations or finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal. While it is assumed that the bill’s changes may spur some additional firearm sales in the State, any such impact cannot be reliably estimated. However, the bill’s changes are not expected to increase the overall demand for firearms in Maryland.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** As of January 1, 2003, a firearm dealer is prohibited from selling, renting, or transferring in the State a handgun made after December 31, 2002, unless the handgun has an “integrated mechanical safety device.” (This prohibition does not apply to sales to the government, military, or law enforcement, or sales or transfers to dealers out of state.)

“Integrated mechanical safety device” means a disabling or locking device that is (1) built into a handgun and (2) designed to prevent the handgun from being discharged unless the device has been deactivated.

“External safety lock” means an external device that is (1) attached to a handgun with a key or combination lock and (2) designed to prevent a handgun from being discharged unless the device has been deactivated.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** HB 713 of 2014 received a hearing in the House Judiciary Committee, but no further action was taken.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of State Police, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 2, 2015  
min/lgc

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