

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2015 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 614  
Judiciary

(Delegate Dumais)

Judicial Proceedings

---

Department of State Police - Handgun Roster Board - Definition of Handgun

---

This bill eliminates a short-barreled rifle or short-barreled shotgun from the definition of “handgun” with respect to the purview of the Handgun Roster Board.

---

Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None. The bill’s changes do not have a measureable effect on the operations or finances of the Handgun Roster Board or the Department of State Police (DSP).

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

---

Analysis

**Current Law:** The Handgun Roster Board is an entity within DSP. The Secretary of State Police serves as chair. The board must (1) compile and maintain a handgun roster of authorized handguns that are useful for legitimate sporting, self-protection, or law enforcement purposes; (2) annually publish the handgun roster; and (3) semiannually send a copy of the handgun roster to all persons who hold a State-regulated firearm dealer’s license in the State. In general, a person may not manufacture, distribute, or sell a handgun in the State that is not included on the handgun roster.

“Handgun” is defined under the Criminal Law Article as a pistol, revolver, or other firearm capable of being concealed on the person. The term includes a short-barreled shotgun and a short-barreled rifle. It does not include a shotgun, rifle, or antique firearm.

DSP has posted the following information to the board's website:

With regard to short-barrel rifles included on the Handgun Roster, please note that a semi-automatic rifle with (1) an overall length of less than 29" and/or (2) any two of the following: (1) a folding stock; (2) a grenade launcher or flare launcher; or (3) a flash suppressor is a "copycat weapon" under provisions of the Firearm Safety Act of 2013 and is not eligible for sale to the general public (unless the purchaser had a purchase order for, or a completed application to purchase, the firearm prior to October 1, 2013).

Overall length is measured between the extreme ends of the rifle along a line parallel to the center line of the bore. An attachment to the barrel, such as a muzzle brake or flash suppressor, should not be included in the measurement unless it is permanently affixed.

---

### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 5, 2015  
md/lgc

---

Analysis by: Guy G. Cherry

Direct Inquiries to:  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510