A BILL
ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning Secure All Firearms Effectively (SAFE) Act

FOR the purpose requiring firearms dealers to comply with certain inventory security requirements under certain circumstances; providing certain alarm system requirements; requiring a certain dealer to obtain a certain license; authorizing a fee for the license; providing for the term of the license; providing for an application for a license; providing for certain inspections; providing for approval or rejection of the license under certain circumstances; prohibiting transfer of a license; requiring certain inventory security measures under certain circumstances; requiring certain records to accompany certain firearms under certain circumstances; providing for certain enforcement authority; authorizing the adoption of certain regulations; providing for the severability of this Act; providing for a grandfathering of certain dealers under certain circumstances; altering a certain definition; defining certain terms; and generally relating to firearms dealer inventory security.
By repealing and reenacting, with amendments

Section 21-1-101
Title 1. In General
Article 21. Permits, Licenses and Business Regulation
Baltimore County Code, 2015

By adding

Sections 21-23-101 through 21-23-116
Title 23. Secure All Firearms Effectively (SAFE) Act
Article 21. Permits, Licenses and Business Regulation
Baltimore County Code, 2015

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE
COUNTY, MARYLAND, That the Laws of Baltimore County shall read as follows:


Title 1. In General.

§ 21-1-101.
(a) In this article the following words have the meanings indicated.
(b) "Chief of Police" means the county Chief of Police or the Chief's designee.
(c) "Department" means the Department of Permits, Approvals and Inspections.
(d) "Director" means the Director of the Department of Permits, Approvals and Inspections OR
THE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE.

TITLE 23. SECURE ALL FIREARMS EFFECTIVELY (SAFE) ACT.
(A) IN THIS TITLE THE FOLLOWING TERMS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.
(B)(1) "DEALER" MEANS A PERSON WHO IS ENGAGED IN THE BUSINESS OF SELLING, RENTING, OR TRANSFERRING FIREARMS AT WHOLESALE OR RETAIL IN SPACE OPEN OR ADVERTISED TO THE PUBLIC.
(2) "DEALER" INCLUDES THE DEALER'S AGENT.
(C) "FIREARM" MEANS:
(1) A WEAPON THAT EXPELS, IS DESIGNED TO EXPEL, OR MAY READILY BE CONVERTED TO EXPEL A PROJECTILE BY THE ACTION OF AN EXPLOSIVE; OR
(2) THE FRAME OR RECEIVER OF SUCH A WEAPON.
(D)(1) "GUN SHOW" MEANS ANY ORGANIZED GATHERING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AT WHICH ANY FIREARM IS DISPLAYED.
(2) FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS TITLE, AN ORGANIZED GATHERING IS A GUN SHOW ONLY IF A FIREARM MAY BE SOLD, RENTED, OR TRANSFERRED AT WHOLESALE OR RETAIL AT THE GUN SHOW.
(E)(1) "PERSON" MEANS ANY INDIVIDUAL, CORPORATION, PARTNERSHIP, JOINT VENTURE, FIRM, ASSOCIATION, OR OTHER ENTITY.
(2) "PERSON" DOES NOT INCLUDE A GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY OR AN INSTRUMENTALITY OR UNIT OF A GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY.
(F) "PLACE OF PUBLIC ASSEMBLY” MEANS A LOCATION USED FOR A GATHERING OF 50 OR MORE PERSONS FOR DELIBERATION, WORSHIP,
ENTERTAINMENT, EATING, DRINKING, AMUSEMENT, SHOPPING, AWAITING TRANSPORTATION OR SIMILAR USES.

§ 21-23-102.

THIS TITLE APPLIES TO DEALERS SELLING, RENTING, OR TRANSFERRING AT WHOLESALE OR RETAIL FIREARMS WITHIN 100 YARDS OF OR IN A PARK, HOUSE OF WORSHIP, SCHOOL, PUBLIC BUILDING OR OTHER PLACE OF PUBLIC ASSEMBLY.

§ 21-23-103.

A PERSON MAY NOT DO BUSINESS AS A DEALER WITHOUT HAVING FIRST OBTAINED A LICENSE TO DO SO FROM THE DIRECTOR.

§ 21-23-104.

(A) THE DIRECTOR MAY NOT CHARGE A LICENSE APPLICATION FEE AND OR A FEE FOR EACH LICENSE REQUIRED BY THIS TITLE.

(B) A LICENSE SHALL BE ISSUED FOR ONE YEAR AND THE LICENSE FEE MAY BE DUE ON APPLICATION FOR A NEW OR RENEWED LICENSE.

(C) (1) THE COUNTY MAY NOT REFUND A LICENSE APPLICATION FEE.

(2) THE COUNTY MAY REFUND A FIRST ONE-YEAR LICENSE FEE SUBMITTED WITH THE INITIAL APPLICATION IF THE INITIAL LICENSE IS NOT GRANTED.
(D) The county administrative officer may establish a fee schedule for a license application and a license, including the renewal fee.

(E) If a person required to be licensed under this title ceases to do business as a dealer, the license shall be returned to the department on cessation of transactions involving the transfer of firearms.

§ 21-23-105.

(A) An application for a license shall be submitted to the department on a form required by the director.

(B) An application shall include a statement attesting to the truth of the information provided under penalties of perjury, which shall be signed by:

(1) Each individual listed on the application; or

(2) If the applicant is a corporation, association, partnership, sole proprietorship, or other business entity, each authorized officer, director, or general partner of the applicant.

(C) An application shall be accompanied by payment of the application fee and the license fee for the first one-year term.

(D) A minor may not receive a license under this title.
(D) DURING THE TERM OF THE LICENSE, IF THERE IS A CHANGE IN THE INFORMATION THAT A PERSON PROVIDED IN AN APPLICATION FOR A LICENSE OR LICENSE RENEWAL, THE PERSON SHALL:

1. REPORT THE CHANGE TO THE DEPARTMENT WITHIN 30 DAYS AFTER THE CHANGE OCCURS; AND
2. CERTIFY, UNDER PENALTIES OF PERJURY, THAT THE NEW INFORMATION IS CORRECT.

An application shall include an authorization for governmental inspection, including inspection by the Chief of Police, of the premises or any off-site storage location at any time for the purpose of ensuring compliance with this title.

§ 21-23-106. The Director may approve an application unless:

1. The information provided by the applicant is incorrect or incomplete; or
2. The premises listed in the application does not comply with the County's health, zoning, fire, or building code requirements; or
3. The Chief of Police denies the applicant's monitoring and physical security plan because it does not comply with the requirements of § 21-23-108 of this title, and sets forth the reasons for that decision.
§ 21-23-107.

(A) A LICENSE TO DO BUSINESS AS A DEALER MAY NOT BE TRANSFERRED FROM ONE PERSON TO ANOTHER.

(B) A PERSON WHO HOLDS A LICENSE UNDER THIS TITLE SHALL NOTIFY THE DIRECTOR IN WRITING BEFORE MOVING THE ESTABLISHMENT OR ANY OFF-SITE STORAGE LOCATION FROM ONE LOCATION TO ANOTHER LOCATION.

§ 21-23-108.

(A) THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO A GUN SHOW.

(B) THE BUSINESS PREMISES OF A DEALER SHALL:

(1) BE MONITORED AT ALL TIMES BY:

   (I) AN ALARM SYSTEM REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 13, TITLE 11, SUBTITLE 2 OF THE CODE; AND

   (II) A VIDEO SYSTEM; AND

   (2) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (C)(1) OF THIS SECTION, INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING PHYSICAL SECURITY ELEMENTS:

   (I) BOLLARDS OR ANOTHER PHYSICAL BARRIER TO PREVENT VEHICLE INTRUSION INTO THE BUILDING;

   (II) SECURITY GATES OR SECURITY SCREENS OVER WINDOWS,

   AND:

   1. SECURITY GATES OR SECURITY SCREENS OVER DOORS; OR

   2. A SECURE VESTIBULE FOR DOORS; AND
EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (C)(2) OF THIS SECTION, ALL FIREARMS SECURED IN A SAFE, A SECURE ROOM, IN A SECURED CAGE, OR BEHIND SECURITY SHUTTERS WHEN THE BUSINESS PREMISES ARE CLOSED.

(C)(1) AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (B)(2) OF THIS SECTION, THE CHIEF OF POLICE MAY APPROVE ANOTHER COMBINATION OF PHYSICAL SECURITY ELEMENTS THAT PROVIDE AN ADEQUATE LEVEL OF PROTECTION.

(2) AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (B)(2)(III) OF THIS SECTION, THE CHIEF OF POLICE MAY AUTHORIZE THE DEALER TO PROVIDE LIVE SECURITY GUARD COVERAGE.

(D)(1) THE CHIEF OF POLICE SHALL REVIEW AND APPROVE ALL PLANS FOR COMPLIANCE WITH THIS SECTION.

(2) THE DEALER MAY NOT HAVE FIREARM INVENTORY ON THE PREMISES UNTIL AFTER THE CHIEF OF POLICE HAS CONFIRMED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE APPROVED SECURITY PLAN.

(B)(1) THE CHIEF OF POLICE SHALL REVIEW ALL MONITORING AND PHYSICAL SECURITY PLANS FOR COMPLIANCE WITH THIS SECTION.

(2) THE CHIEF OF POLICE SHALL APPROVE OR DENY A PLAN FOR COMPLIANCE WITHIN SIXTY (60) DAYS OF RECEIPT OF THE PLAN.

(3) A DEALER MAY NOT HAVE FIREARM INVENTORY ON THE BUSINESS PREMISES UNTIL AFTER THE CHIEF OF POLICE HAS CONFIRMED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE APPROVED PLAN.
(C) THE BUSINESS PREMISES OF A DEALER SHALL BE MONITORED AT ALL TIMES BY A VIDEO SYSTEM AND AN ALARM SYSTEM REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 13, TITLE 11, SUBTITLE 2 OF THE CODE.

(D)(1) THE BUSINESS PREMISES OF A DEALER SHALL BE SECURED BY THE FOLLOWING EXTERIOR PHYSICAL SECURITY ELEMENTS:

(I) BOLLARDS, CONCRETE BARRIERS, STEEL BARRICADES, PLANTERS, LANDSCAPE BOULDERS OR ANOTHER PHYSICAL BARRIER THAT PREVENTS INTRUSION INTO THE BUILDING;

(II) SECURITY GATES, SCREENS, SHUTTERS, BARS, OR GRILLES OVER WINDOWS AND DOORS, OR A SECURE VESTIBULE FOR DOORS.

(2) AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE EXTERIOR PHYSICAL SECURITY ELEMENTS REQUIRED IN SUBSECTION (D)(1), THE CHIEF OF POLICE MAY APPROVE ANOTHER COMBINATION OF EXTERIOR PHYSICAL SECURITY ELEMENTS THAT PROVIDE AN ADEQUATE LEVEL OF PROTECTION.

(E) WHEN THE BUSINESS PREMISES IS CLOSED:

(1) ALL FIREARMS INVENTORY WITHIN THE BUSINESS PREMISES SHALL BE SECURED IN A SAFE, IN A SECURED ROOM OR CAGE, IN SMASH-PROOF DISPLAY CASES, OR BEHIND SECURITY SHUTTERS.

(2) AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE INTERIOR PHYSICAL SECURITY ELEMENTS IN SUBSECTION (E)(1), THE CHIEF OF POLICE MAY AUTHORIZE THE DEALER TO PROVIDE LIVE SECURITY GUARD COVERAGE.

§ 21-23-109.
(A)(1) A PERSON PROMOTING OR SPONSORING A GUN SHOW SHALL HAVE
A SECURITY PLAN FOR THE GUN SHOW PREMISES APPROVED BY THE CHIEF OF
POLICE.

(2) EACH DEALER PARTICIPATING IN THE GUN SHOW SHALL COMPLY
WITH THE SECURITY PLAN.

(B) THE SECURITY PLAN SHALL, AT A MINIMUM, INCLUDE FOR ALL TIMES
THAT THE PREMISES ARE NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND HAVE FIREARMS ON-
SITE PROVISIONS FOR:

(1) PROVISIONS FOR:

1. (1) A VIDEO SYSTEM AND A MONITORED ALARM SYSTEM UNDER
ARTICLE 13, TITLE 11, SUBTITLE 2 OF THE CODE; AND

2. A VIDEO SYSTEM; AND

(2) LIVE SECURITY GUARD COVERAGE.

(C)(1) THE CHIEF OF POLICE SHALL REVIEW AND APPROVE ALL PLANS
APPROVE OR DENY A SECURITY PLAN WITHIN SIXTY (60) DAYS OF RECEIPT OF
THE PLAN FOR COMPLIANCE WITH THIS SECTION.

(2) A GUN SHOW DEALER PARTICIPATING IN A GUN SHOW
MAY NOT HAVE FIREARM INVENTORY ON THE PREMISES UNTIL AFTER THE
CHIEF OF POLICE HAS CONFIRMED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE APPROVED
SECURITY PLAN.

§ 21-23-110.
(A) A DEALER SUBJECT TO THIS TITLE TRANSPORTING FIREARMS FOR SALE, WITHIN THE COUNTY, SHALL AT ALL TIMES HAVE IN THEIR POSSESSION AN INVENTORY LIST FOR EACH FIREARM BEING TRANSPORTED, WHICH SHALL INCLUDE, AT A MINIMUM, THE MAKE AND SERIAL NUMBER OF THE ITEM.

(B) A COPY OF THE INVENTORY LIST SHALL AT ALL TIMES:

(1) ACCOMPANY THE FIREARM;

(2) BE AVAILABLE AT THE DEALER'S BUSINESS PREMISES; AND

(3) BE PROVIDED TO LAW ENFORCEMENT ON REQUEST.

§ 21-23-111.

(A) THE DIRECTOR MAY ISSUE AN ORDER DENYING, REFUSING TO RENEW, REVOKING, OR SUSPENDING A LICENSE FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

(1) THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE LICENSEE OR APPLICANT IN THE APPLICATION IS INCORRECT, INCOMPLETE, OR HAS NOT BEEN UPDATED AS REQUIRED BY THIS TITLE;

(2) A LICENSEE HAS FAILED TO COMPLY WITH A CORRECTION NOTICE OR CITATION; OR

(3) THE LICENSEE OR APPLICANT HAS VIOLATED ONE OR MORE OF THE PROVISIONS OF THIS TITLE.

(B)(1) AN ORDER DENYING, REFUSING TO RENEW, REVOKING, OR SUSPENDING A LICENSE SHALL BE SERVED ON THE LICENSEE OR APPLICANT BY CERTIFIED MAIL, RESTRICTED DELIVERY OR BY PERSONAL SERVICE.
(2) THE ORDER SHALL CONTAIN THE REASONS FOR THE DENIAL, REFUSAL TO RENEW, REVOCATION, OR SUSPENSION.

(3) IF SERVICE CANNOT BE OBTAINED BY CERTIFIED MAIL, RESTRICTED DELIVERY OR PERSONAL SERVICE, THE NOTICE MAY BE POSTED IN A CONSPICUOUS LOCATION ON THE DEALER’S ESTABLISHMENT.

(C)(1) AN APPLICANT FOR A LICENSE UNDER THIS TITLE WHOSE APPLICATION HAS BEEN REFUSED OR A LICENSEE WHOSE LICENSE HAS BEEN SUSPENDED OR REVOKED MAY APPEAL THE DECISION OF THE DIRECTOR TO THE BOARD OF APPEALS WITHIN 10 DAYS AFTER REFUSAL, SUSPENSION, OR REVOCATION OF THE LICENSE.

(2) THE BOARD OF APPEALS SHALL CONDUCT A HEARING ON THE APPEAL AND SHALL AFFIRM, REVERSE, OR MODIFY THE DECISION OF THE DIRECTOR.

§ 21-23-112.

(A) THE CHIEF OF POLICE MAY INSTITUTE ANY ACTION AT LAW OR EQUITY, INCLUDING INJUNCTION OR MANDAMUS, TO ENFORCE THE PROVISIONS OF THIS TITLE.

(B)(1) NOTWITHSTANDING SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION, IF THE CHIEF OF POLICE DETERMINES THAT A VIOLATION OF THIS TITLE HAS OCCURRED THAT MAY BRING THE SECURITY OF FIREARMS INTO QUESTION, THE CHIEF MAY POST ONE OR MORE OFFICERS OR SECURITY GUARDS AT THE LOCATION AT THE
EXPENSE OF THE OWNER OF THE PREMISES APPLICANT OR LICENSEE UNTIL EITHER:

(I) THE VIOLATION HAS BEEN ABATED TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE; OR

(II) THE INVENTORY HAS BEEN REMOVED TO A SECURE LOCATION AND THE CHIEF HAS VERIFIED THE MOVE.

(2) THE OWNER APPLICANT OR LICENSEE MAY APPEAL THE AMOUNT OF AN INVOICE PROVIDED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION TO THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER.

(3) ANY UNPAID FEES SHALL BE CONSIDERED A LIEN ON THE PROPERTY IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 3-6-401 OF THE CODE.

§ 21-23-113.

(A) IF A VIOLATION OF THIS TITLE IS FOUND, THE DIRECTOR MAY PROVIDE TO THE DEALER A CORRECTION NOTICE THAT DESCRIBES THE VIOLATION, SPECIFIES THE ACTION NECESSARY TO CORRECT THE VIOLATION, AND SETS FORTH THE TIME TO CORRECT THE VIOLATION.

(B)(1) THE DIRECTOR SHALL SERVE A CORRECTION NOTICE BY CERTIFIED MAIL, RESTRICTED DELIVERY OR BY PERSONAL SERVICE OR BY REGULAR MAIL.

(2) IF SERVICE CANNOT BE OBTAINED BY CERTIFIED MAIL, RESTRICTED DELIVERY OR PERSONAL SERVICE OR BY REGULAR MAIL, THE CORRECTION NOTICE MAY BE POSTED IN A CONSPICUOUS LOCATION ON THE DEALER'S ESTABLISHMENT.
(C)(1) IF A DEALER FAILS TO COMPLY WITH THE CORRECTION NOTICE, THE DIRECTOR MAY ISSUE A CITATION AND CODE ENFORCEMENT PROCEEDINGS SHALL CONTINUE AS PROVIDED IN ARTICLE 3, TITLE 6 OF THE CODE.

(2) SECTION 3-6-205(B) OF THE CODE DOES NOT APPLY TO AN ENFORCEMENT ACTION FOR A VIOLATION OF THIS TITLE.

§ 21-23-114.

THE CHIEF OF POLICE AND THE DIRECTOR MAY EACH ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THE PURPOSES OF THIS TITLE.

§ 21-23-115.

IF ANY SECTION, SUBSECTION, SENTENCE, CLAUSE, PHRASE, OR PORTION OF THIS TITLE IS, FOR ANY REASON, HELD INVALID OR UNCONSTITUTIONAL BY A COURT OF COMPETENT JURISDICTION, THE PORTION IS DEEMED A SEPARATE, DISTINCT, AND INDEPENDENT PROVISION. THE HOLDING DOES NOT AFFECT THE VALIDITY OF THE REMAINING PORTION OF THIS TITLE. IT IS THE INTENT OF THE COUNTY THAT THIS TITLE WOULD HAVE BEEN ENACTED NOTWITHSTANDING THE INVALIDITY OF ANY SECTION, SUBSECTION, SENTENCE, CLAUSE, PHRASE, OR PORTION OF THE TITLE.

§ 21-23-116.

THIS TITLE MAY BE CITED AS THE “SECURE ALL FIREARMS EFFECTIVELY (SAFE) ACT.”
SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That any firearms dealer in existence on or before the effective date of this Act that would otherwise be subject to the requirements of §§ 21-23-101 through 21-23-108 and 21-23-110 through 21-23-116 of the Baltimore County Code, 2015 shall comply with the requirements of those sections not more than 180 days after the effective date of regulations adopted under this Act.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, not more than thirty (30) days after the effective date of this Act, the Directors of Economic and Workforce Development and Budget and Finance shall jointly develop a program for providing financial assistance to firearms dealers in existence on or before the effective date of this Act. The purpose of the financial assistance is to help firearms dealers come into compliance with the requirements of this Act. The aid may be given in the form of matching grants up to ten thousand dollars ($10,000) and/or no-interest loans based on the criteria established by the Directors. Unless requested by the Chief of Police, new applications for financial assistance under the program established under this section may not be accepted after the one-year anniversary of the effective date of regulations adopted under this Act.

SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the false alarm fees in § 13-11-208 of the Baltimore County Code, 2015 do not apply to any false alarm that occurs at the licensed location of a firearms dealer on or after the effective date of a license issued for that location under Article 21, Title 23 of the Baltimore County Code, 2015. This section does not apply to a location for which a license has been denied, refused to be renewed, revoked, or suspended under § 21-23-111 of the Baltimore County Code, 2015.
SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, that this Act shall take effect 45 days from the date of enactment.