

# HOUSE BILL 877

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CF SB 299

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By: **Delegates Carter and Vallario (By Request – Committee to Revise Article 27 – Crimes and Punishments) and Delegates Anderson, Barnes, Oaks, Rosenberg, and Simmons**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2008

Assigned to: Judiciary

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Safety – Possession of Regulated Firearm by a Person Under 21**  
3 **Years – Penalty**

4 FOR the purpose of adding a misdemeanor penalty provision for the possession of a  
5 regulated firearm or certain ammunition by a person under a certain age; and  
6 generally relating to the possession of a regulated firearm and penalties.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
8 Article – Public Safety  
9 Section 5–133  
10 Annotated Code of Maryland  
11 (2003 Volume and 2007 Supplement)

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
13 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

14 **Article – Public Safety**

15 5–133.

16 (a) This section supersedes any restriction that a local jurisdiction in the  
17 State imposes on the possession by a private party of a regulated firearm, and the  
18 State preempts the right of any local jurisdiction to regulate the possession of a  
19 regulated firearm.

20 (b) A person may not possess a regulated firearm if the person:

21 (1) has been convicted of a disqualifying crime;

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (2) has been convicted of a violation classified as a common law crime  
2 and received a term of imprisonment of more than 2 years;

3 (3) is a fugitive from justice;

4 (4) is a habitual drunkard;

5 (5) is addicted to a controlled dangerous substance or is a habitual  
6 user;

7 (6) suffers from a mental disorder as defined in § 10–101(f)(2) of the  
8 Health – General Article and has a history of violent behavior against the person or  
9 another, unless the person has a physician’s certificate that the person is capable of  
10 possessing a regulated firearm without undue danger to the person or to another;

11 (7) has been confined for more than 30 consecutive days to a facility as  
12 defined in § 10–101 of the Health – General Article, unless the person has a  
13 physician’s certificate that the person is capable of possessing a regulated firearm  
14 without undue danger to the person or to another;

15 (8) is a respondent against whom a current non ex parte civil  
16 protective order has been entered under § 4–506 of the Family Law Article; or

17 (9) if under the age of 30 years at the time of possession, has been  
18 adjudicated delinquent by a juvenile court for an act that would be a disqualifying  
19 crime if committed by an adult.

20 (c) (1) A person may not possess a regulated firearm if the person was  
21 previously convicted of:

22 (i) a crime of violence; or

23 (ii) a violation of § 5–602, § 5–603, § 5–604, § 5–605, § 5–606, §  
24 5–607, § 5–608, § 5–609, § 5–612, § 5–613, or § 5–614 of the Criminal Law Article.

25 (2) A person who violates this subsection is guilty of a felony and on  
26 conviction is subject to imprisonment for not less than 5 years, no part of which may  
27 be suspended.

28 (3) A person sentenced under paragraph (1) of this subsection may not  
29 be eligible for parole.

30 (4) Each violation of this subsection is a separate crime.

31 (d) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, a person  
32 who is under the age of 21 years may not possess a regulated firearm or ammunition  
33 solely designed for a regulated firearm.

1 (2) Unless a person is otherwise prohibited from possessing a  
2 regulated firearm, this subsection does not apply to:

3 (i) the temporary transfer or possession of a regulated firearm  
4 or ammunition solely designed for a regulated firearm if the person is:

5 1. under the supervision of another who is at least 21  
6 years old and who is not prohibited by State or federal law from possessing a firearm;  
7 and

8 2. acting with the permission of the parent or legal  
9 guardian of the transferee or person in possession;

10 (ii) the transfer by inheritance of title, and not of possession, of  
11 a regulated firearm;

12 (iii) a member of the armed forces of the United States or the  
13 National Guard while performing official duties;

14 (iv) the temporary transfer or possession of a regulated firearm  
15 or ammunition solely designed for a regulated firearm if the person is:

16 1. participating in marksmanship training of a  
17 recognized organization; and

18 2. under the supervision of a qualified instructor;

19 (v) a person who is required to possess a regulated firearm for  
20 employment and who holds a permit under Subtitle 3 of this title; or

21 (vi) the possession of a firearm or ammunition for self-defense  
22 or the defense of others against a trespasser into the residence of the person in  
23 possession or into a residence in which the person in possession is an invited guest.

24 **(3) A PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS SUBSECTION IS GUILTY OF A**  
25 **MISDEMEANOR AND ON CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO IMPRISONMENT NOT**  
26 **EXCEEDING 1 YEAR OR A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$1,000 OR BOTH.**

27 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
28 October 1, 2008.