

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2010 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 546 (Delegate Malone)
Judiciary

Public Safety - Explosives - Definition

This bill expands the definition of the term “explosives” under provisions relating to licenses to engage in business as a manufacturer or dealer of explosives or to possess explosives. Specifically, the bill includes under the definition any combination of two or more components that are sold or offered for sale together for the purpose of being combined to make an explosive.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Enforcement can be handled with the existing budgeted resources of the State Fire Marshal. Any potential increase in license violations is expected to be minimal without any measureable effect on State operations or finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: “Explosives” means gunpowder, powders for blasting, high explosives, blasting materials, fuses other than electric circuit breakers, detonators and other detonating agents, smokeless powder, and any chemical compound or mechanical mixture that contains oxidizing and combustible units or other ingredients in such proportions, quantities, or packing that ignition by fire, friction, concussion, percussion, or detonation of any part of the compound or mixture may and is intended to cause an explosion.

The term includes bombs and destructive devices designed to operate by chemical, mechanical, or explosive action, but does not include fixed ammunition for small arms, small arms ammunition primers, small arms percussion caps, safety and pyrotechnic fuses, quills, quick and slow matches, friction primers, fireworks, or common matches when used in their original configuration.

With certain exceptions, a person must obtain a license before engaging in business as a manufacturer or dealer, possesses explosives other than explosives for use in firearms, or possesses or stores explosives for use in firearms in the State. "Dealer" means a person who is engaged in the business of buying or selling explosives, but does not include a manufacturer.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

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mpc/hlb

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