

Department of Legislative Services  
 Maryland General Assembly  
 2012 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 300  
 Judiciary

(Delegate Cluster, *et al.*)

Judicial Proceedings

**Public Safety - Handgun Permits - Renewal Period for Retired Law Enforcement**

This bill specifies that a handgun permit issued to a retired law enforcement officer of the State or a county or municipality of the State expires on the last day of the holder’s birth month following five years after the date the permit is issued and may be renewed for successive periods of five years each if, at the time of a renewal application, the applicant possesses the qualifications for the issuance of a permit.

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** This bill will delay the collection of renewal permit fees from retired law enforcement officers, and will likely reduce the number of renewals that will occur for each retired officer over time. Accordingly, general fund revenues from handgun permit renewal fees are projected to decline by approximately \$39,800 in FY 2016 and 2017. The accompanying reduction in annual work load for the State Police is not expected to affect the manpower needs of the agency.

(in dollars)	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
GF Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$39,800)	(\$39,800)
Expenditure	0	0	0	0	0
Net Effect	\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$39,800)	(\$39,800)

*Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate effect*

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

## Analysis

**Current Law:** To be issued a permit to carry a handgun by the Secretary of State Police, an applicant (1) must be 18 or older; (2) must not have been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor for which a sentence of imprisonment for more than one year has been imposed or, if convicted, must have been pardoned or been granted relief under federal law; (3) if the person is younger than 30, must not have been committed to a facility for juveniles for longer than one year or adjudicated delinquent for a crime of violence, a felony, or misdemeanor that carries a statutory penalty of more than two years; (4) must not have been convicted of a controlled dangerous substance violation and must not presently be an addict, a habitual user of a controlled dangerous substance, or an alcoholic; (5) must not exhibit a propensity for violence or instability which may reasonably render possession of a handgun a danger to the applicant or another; and (6) must have a good and substantial reason to wear, carry, or transport a handgun. “Good and substantial reason” includes a finding that the permit is necessary as a reasonable precaution against apprehended danger.

A handgun permit application costs \$75; two years after the initial permit, a \$50 renewal fee is due and every three years thereafter. In addition, the applicant must pay for fingerprint-based federal and State criminal history background checks, at a cost of \$42 for the initial application (plus \$10 for the fingerprint cards) and \$24 for renewals (covering a federal recheck only).

A handgun permit for all persons expires on the last day of the holder’s birth month following 2 years after the date the permit is issued. A permit may be renewed for successive periods of 3 years each if, at the time of an application for renewal, the applicant possesses the qualifications for the issuance of a permit and pays the renewal fee.

**State Fiscal Effect:** Over the last three calendar years an average of 192 initial handgun permits were issued to retired law enforcement officers. The total initial permit fee collections averaged \$14,400 annually (192 x \$75). Permit renewal data for the same period shows an average of 796 permits renewed each year by retired officers, with a revenue stream of \$39,800 annually (796 x \$50). Under the bill, over a 15-year period, handgun renewal permits for retired law enforcement officers will occur three times, rather than five times.

Accordingly, general fund revenues from handgun permit renewal fees are projected to decline by approximately \$39,800 in both fiscal 2016 and 2017. On an annualized basis, renewal fee revenues would decrease by approximately \$15,920 annually over the course of a five-year period.

## **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 17, 2012  
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