

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2014 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 713
Judiciary

(Delegate Smigiel, *et al.*)

Public Safety - Handgun Safety Devices - External Safety Locks

This bill allows the sale, rental, or transfer of a handgun in the State with an “external safety lock” as an alternative to an “integrated mechanical safety device.”

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill does not materially affect State operations or finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal. While it is assumed that the bill’s changes may spur some additional firearm sales in the State, any such impact cannot be reliably estimated. However, the bill’s changes are not expected to increase the demand for firearms in Maryland.

Analysis

Current Law: As of January 1, 2003, a firearm dealer is prohibited from selling, renting, or transferring in the State a handgun made after December 31, 2002, unless the handgun has an “integrated mechanical safety device.” (This prohibition does not apply to sales to the government, military, or law enforcement, or sales or transfers to dealers out-of-state.)

“Integrated mechanical safety device” means a disabling or locking device that is (1) built into a handgun and (2) designed to prevent the handgun from being discharged unless the device has been deactivated.

“External safety lock” means an external device that is (1) attached to a handgun with a key or combination lock and (2) designed to prevent a handgun from being discharged unless the device has been deactivated.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of State Police, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 26, 2014
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