

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 444

(Senator Smith)

Judicial Proceedings

Public Safety - Gun Buyback Programs - Destruction of Firearms

This bill requires a person or entity operating a gun buyback program to destroy a firearm, including every component and part attached to the firearm, that is traded in at a gun buyback program; the destruction must make the firearm, and every component and part attached to the firearm, permanently inoperable and unrepairable. A person or entity may contract with a law enforcement agency, an organization, or a business to satisfy the firearm destruction requirement. A person or entity that violates these provisions is subject to a maximum fine of \$10,000 per violation. If the violator is a licensed firearms dealer, in addition to the maximum \$10,000 fine per violation, the Secretary of State Police must revoke the dealer's license.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill is not anticipated to materially affect State government operations or finances.

Local Effect: The bill is not anticipated to materially affect local government operations or finances.

Small Business Effect: Minimal or none.

Analysis

Bill Summary: "Gun buyback program" means a program that is operated by a public or private person or entity that allows firearm owners to voluntarily trade in their firearms for compensation.

Current Law: There are no statutory provisions directly applicable to gun buyback programs.

The Department of State Police regulates firearms and regulated firearms dealer licensees under provisions of the Public Safety Article. A person must lawfully possess a regulated firearms dealer's license issued by the Secretary of State Police before the person engages in the business of selling, renting, or transferring regulated firearms. One dealer's license is required for each place of business where regulated firearms are sold. Current law requires the Secretary to revoke a dealer's license under specified conditions.

State licensees must also have a federal firearms license issued by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has been introduced within the last three years. See SB 1097 of 2024.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Anne Arundel, Baltimore, and Frederick counties; Maryland Association of Counties; City of Frederick; Maryland Municipal League; Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); Department of State Police; Department of Legislative Services

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caw/lgc

Analysis by: Shirleen M. E. Pilgrim

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510