

HOUSE BILL 820

E4

6lr1987

By: **Delegates Hornberger, Adams, Arian, Baker, Chisholm, Ciliberti, and Griffith**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2026

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Handgun Permits – Special Endorsement for Security Clearance Holders**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring that a handgun permit issued by the Secretary of State Police
4 bear a certain endorsement showing that the permit holder has enhanced privileges
5 to wear, carry, or transport a handgun under certain circumstances; providing that
6 a person who has a handgun permit issued under this Act may wear, carry, or
7 transport a handgun at any place where a certain law enforcement official is
8 authorized to wear, carry, or transport a handgun; and generally relating to handgun
9 permits.

10 BY adding to
11 Article – Public Safety
12 Section 5–315
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

17 **Article – Public Safety**

18 **5–315.**

19 (A) IN THIS SECTION, “LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIAL” HAS THE MEANING
20 STATED IN § 4–201 OF THE CRIMINAL LAW ARTICLE.

21 (B) A PERMIT ISSUED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE SHALL BEAR A SPECIAL
22 ENDORSEMENT THAT SHOWS THAT THE PERMIT HOLDER HAS ENHANCED
23 PRIVILEGES TO WEAR, CARRY, OR TRANSPORT A HANDGUN IF, BASED ON A

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION, THE SECRETARY DETERMINES THAT THE PERMIT
2 HOLDER IS:

3 (1) A CURRENT EMPLOYEE OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
4 WHO CURRENTLY HOLDS TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE COMPARTMENTED INFORMATION
5 SECURITY CLEARANCE; OR

6 (2) A RETIRED EMPLOYEE OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
7 WHO HELD A TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE COMPARTMENTED INFORMATION SECURITY
8 CLEARANCE FOR AT LEAST 10 CONSECUTIVE YEARS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING
9 RETIREMENT FROM FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT.

10 (C) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY LAW OR ORDINANCE THAT PROHIBITS THE
11 WEARING, CARRYING, OR TRANSPORTING OF A HANDGUN AT A PLACE, A PERSON
12 WHO HAS A PERMIT BEARING AN ENDORSEMENT UNDER THIS SECTION MAY WEAR,
13 CARRY, OR TRANSPORT A HANDGUN AT ANY PLACE WHERE A LAW ENFORCEMENT
14 OFFICIAL IS AUTHORIZED TO WEAR, CARRY, OR TRANSPORT A HANDGUN IN THE
15 PERFORMANCE OF THE OFFICIAL'S DUTIES.

16 (D) THE SECRETARY SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS NECESSARY TO CARRY
17 OUT THIS SECTION.

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
19 October 1, 2026.