

# SENATE BILL 620

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CF 6lr2555

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By: **Senators Watson and West**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2026

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Criminal Law – Wearing, Carrying, or Transporting a Handgun – Prior**  
3 **Convictions**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the list of convictions that subject a defendant to enhanced  
5 sentencing for wearing, carrying, or transporting a handgun to include certain  
6 extra-jurisdictional crimes; and generally relating to wearing, carrying, or  
7 transporting a handgun.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
9 Article – Criminal Law  
10 Section 4–203(a)  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
14 Article – Criminal Law  
15 Section 4–203(c)  
16 Annotated Code of Maryland  
17 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

20 **Article – Criminal Law**

21 4–203.

22 (a) (1) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, a person may not:

23 (i) wear, carry, or transport a handgun, whether concealed or open,  
24 on or about the person;

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(ii) wear, carry, or knowingly transport a handgun, whether concealed or open, in a vehicle traveling on a road or parking lot generally used by the public, highway, waterway, or airway of the State;

(iii) violate item (i) or (ii) of this paragraph while on public school property in the State;

(iv) violate item (i) or (ii) of this paragraph with the deliberate purpose of injuring or killing another person; or

(v) violate item (i) or (ii) of this paragraph with a handgun loaded with ammunition.

(2) There is a rebuttable presumption that a person who transports a handgun under paragraph (1)(ii) of this subsection transports the handgun knowingly.

(c) (1) A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to the penalties provided in this subsection.

(2) If the person has not previously been convicted under this section, § 4–204 of this subtitle, or § 4–101 or § 4–102 of this title, **OR IN ANOTHER STATE OR A FEDERAL, MILITARY, OR NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBAL COURT OF A CRIME THAT, IF COMMITTED IN THE STATE, WOULD CONSTITUTE A VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION, § 4–204 OF THIS SUBTITLE, OR § 4–101 OR § 4–102 OF THIS TITLE:**

(i) except as provided in item (ii) of this paragraph, the person is subject to imprisonment for not less than 30 days and not exceeding 5 years or a fine of not less than \$250 and not exceeding \$2,500 or both; or

(ii) if the person violates subsection (a)(1)(iii) of this section, the person shall be sentenced to imprisonment for not less than 90 days.

(3) (i) If the person has previously been convicted once under this section, § 4–204 of this subtitle, or § 4–101 or § 4–102 of this title, **OR IN ANOTHER STATE OR A FEDERAL, MILITARY, OR NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBAL COURT OF A CRIME THAT, IF COMMITTED IN THE STATE, WOULD CONSTITUTE A VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION, § 4–204 OF THIS SUBTITLE, OR § 4–101 OR § 4–102 OF THIS TITLE:**

1. except as provided in item 2 of this subparagraph, the person is subject to imprisonment for not less than 1 year and not exceeding 10 years; or

2. if the person violates subsection (a)(1)(iii) of this section, the person is subject to imprisonment for not less than 3 years and not exceeding 10 years.

(ii) 1. Except as provided in subsubparagraph 2 of this subparagraph, the court may not impose less than the applicable minimum sentence provided under subparagraph (i) of this paragraph.

2. If the person violates subsection (a)(1)(v) of this section, the court may not suspend any part of or impose less than the applicable mandatory minimum sentence provided under subparagraph (i) of this paragraph.

(iii) Except as provided in § 4–305 of the Correctional Services Article, if the person violates subsection (a)(1)(v) of this section, the person is not eligible for parole during the mandatory minimum sentence.

(iv) A mandatory minimum sentence under subparagraph (ii)2 of this paragraph may not be imposed unless the State’s Attorney notifies the defendant in writing at least 30 days before trial of the State’s intention to seek the mandatory minimum sentence.

(4) (i) If the person has previously been convicted more than once under this section, § 4–204 of this subtitle, or § 4–101 or § 4–102 of this title, or of any combination of these crimes, **OR IN ANOTHER STATE OR A FEDERAL, MILITARY, OR NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBAL COURT OF A CRIME THAT, IF COMMITTED IN THE STATE, WOULD CONSTITUTE A VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION, § 4–204 OF THIS SUBTITLE, OR § 4–101 OR § 4–102 OF THIS TITLE:**

1. except as provided in item 2 of this subparagraph, the person is subject to imprisonment for not less than 3 years and not exceeding 10 years; or

2. A. if the person violates subsection (a)(1)(iii) of this section, the person is subject to imprisonment for not less than 5 years and not exceeding 10 years; or

B. if the person violates subsection (a)(1)(iv) of this section, the person is subject to imprisonment for not less than 5 years and not exceeding 10 years.

(ii) 1. Except as provided in subsubparagraph 2 of this subparagraph, the court may not impose less than the applicable minimum sentence provided under subparagraph (i) of this paragraph.

2. If the person violates subsection (a)(1)(v) of this section, the court may not suspend any part of or impose less than the applicable mandatory minimum sentence provided under subparagraph (i) of this paragraph.

(iii) Except as provided in § 4–305 of the Correctional Services Article, if the person violates subsection (a)(1)(v) of this section, the person is not eligible for parole during the mandatory minimum sentence.

1 (iv) A mandatory minimum sentence under subparagraph (ii)2 of this  
2 paragraph may not be imposed unless the State's Attorney notifies the defendant in writing  
3 at least 30 days before trial of the State's intention to seek the mandatory minimum  
4 sentence.

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