

SENATE BILL 620

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6lr3010
CF HB 1061

By: **Senators Watson and West**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2026

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

Committee Report: Favorable

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 6, 2026

CHAPTER _____

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**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 4-203.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

18 (2) If the person has not previously been convicted under this section, §
19 4-204 of this subtitle, or § 4-101 or § 4-102 of this title, **OR IN ANOTHER STATE OR A**
20 **FEDERAL, MILITARY, OR NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBAL COURT OF A CRIME THAT, IF**
21 **COMMITTED IN THE STATE, WOULD CONSTITUTE A VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION, §**
22 **4-204 OF THIS SUBTITLE, OR § 4-101 OR § 4-102 OF THIS TITLE:**

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

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

28 (3) (i) If the person has previously been convicted once under this
29 section, § 4-204 of this subtitle, or § 4-101 or § 4-102 of this title, **OR IN ANOTHER STATE**
30 **OR A FEDERAL, MILITARY, OR NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBAL COURT OF A CRIME THAT,**
31 **IF COMMITTED IN THE STATE, WOULD CONSTITUTE A VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION,**
32 **§ 4-204 OF THIS SUBTITLE, OR § 4-101 OR § 4-102 OF THIS TITLE:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

26 2. A. if the person violates subsection (a)(1)(iii) of this
27 section, the person is subject to imprisonment for not less than 5 years and not exceeding
28 10 years; or

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

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

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

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

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

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

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.