

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 331
(Senator Folden, *et al.*)
Judicial Proceedings

Public Safety - Handgun Permits - Expiration and Renewal Periods for Retired Law Enforcement Officer

This bill alters the expiration and renewal periods for a handgun permit issued to a retired law enforcement officer who retired in good standing from service with a law enforcement agency of the State or a county or municipal corporation of the State. Under the bill, the handgun permit expires on the last day of the holder's birth month following five years after the date the permit is issued and may be renewed for successive periods of five years each if, at the time of an application for renewal, the applicant possesses the qualifications for the issuance of a permit.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures increase by approximately \$170,000 in FY 2027 only for one-time computer programming changes. As retired law enforcement officers of the State or a county or municipal corporation of the State are not charged fees for initial or renewal applications for a handgun permit, revenues are not affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	170,000	0	0	0	0
Net Effect	(\$170,000)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate increase; (-) = indeterminate decrease

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Generally, a handgun permit expires on the last day of the holder's birth month following two years after the date the permit is issued; however, the Secretary of State Police may establish an alternative expiration date for a permit to coincide with the expiration of a private detective license, a security guard certification, or a special police officer commission. A permit may be renewed for successive periods of three years each if, at the time of an application for renewal, the applicant possesses the qualifications for the issuance of a permit and pays the renewal fee.

A handgun permit application costs \$125; two years after the initial permit and every three years thereafter, a \$75 renewal fee is due; however, the Secretary may not charge a fee to a retired law enforcement officer of the State or a county or municipal corporation of the State. The applicant must pay for fingerprint-based federal and State criminal history background checks for an initial application. A person who applies for a renewal of a handgun permit is not required to be fingerprinted unless the Secretary requires a set of the person's fingerprints to resolve a question of the person's identity.

State Expenditures: The Department of State Police advises that the handgun permit system for initial applications and renewals is automated and needs to be reprogrammed to accommodate the bill's changes. Accordingly, general fund expenditures increase by approximately \$170,000 in fiscal 2027 only for programming changes.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has been introduced within the last three years. See HB 171 and SB 180 of 2025; SB 102 and HB 329 of 2024; and SB 825 and HB 589 of 2023.

Designated Cross File: HB 94 (Delegates Valentine and Simmons) - Judiciary.

Information Source(s): Department of State Police; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 26, 2026
sj/lgc

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