

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 126
Judiciary

Regulated Firearms - Seven-Day Waiting Period - Exceptions

This bill establishes an exception for the sale, rental, or transfer of a regulated firearm from the required seven-day waiting period after an application is executed when the purchaser, renter, or receiver of the regulated firearm is a law enforcement officer, an individual who retired as a law enforcement officer in good standing from a law enforcement agency, or an individual to whom a permit to wear, carry, or transport a firearm has been issued.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures increase by \$100,000 in FY 2027 only. Revenues are not affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	100,000	0	0	0	0
Net Effect	(\$100,000)	\$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: The Department of State Police (DSP) regulates firearms and regulated firearms dealer licensees under provisions of the Public Safety Article. Before a person purchases, rents, or transfers a regulated firearm in the State, the person must submit to DSP or other designated law enforcement agency a firearm application that identifies the

applicant and the firearm that is the subject of the transaction. 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.

A licensee may not sell, rent, or transfer a regulated firearm until after seven days following the time a firearm application is executed by the firearm applicant, in triplicate, and the original is forwarded by the prospective seller or transferor to the Secretary of State Police. For secondary sales, a person who is not a licensee is prohibited from selling, renting, or transferring a regulated firearm until after seven days following the time a firearm application is executed by the firearm applicant, in triplicate, and the original is forwarded by a licensee to the Secretary. As an alternative to completing a secondary sale of a regulated firearm through a licensee, a prospective seller, lessor, or transferor and a prospective purchaser, lessee, or transferee may complete the transaction through a designated law enforcement agency. A firearm applicant for a secondary sale of a regulated firearm through a licensee must pay to the licensee a processing fee of up to \$20.

A licensee or person must complete the sale, rental, or transfer of a regulated firearm within 90 days after the firearm application was stamped by the Secretary as not being disapproved. If the sale, rental, or transfer of a regulated firearm is not completed within 90 days after the firearm application was stamped by the Secretary as not being disapproved, the licensee or person must return the firearm application to the Secretary within seven days, and the Secretary must void the returned firearm application as an incomplete sale, rental, or transfer.

Reports of sales of all regulated firearms must be forwarded to DSP within seven days of the completed sale. The Secretary must maintain a permanent record of all notifications received of completed sales, rentals, and transfers of regulated firearms in the State.

A dealer must maintain the dealer's copy of the application form for a minimum of three years. The prospective seller, lessor, or transferor must keep one copy of the firearm application for at least three years. These records must be open for inspection by any law enforcement officer during normal business hours or as specifically requested by the Secretary. State licensees must also have a federal firearms license issued by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives.

State Expenditures: General fund expenditures increase by \$100,000 in fiscal 2027 only for one-time programming costs for DSP to update its licensing portal to allow (1) for an applicant to select one of the possible exemptions to the seven-day waiting requirement and (2) the system to recognize the exemption and automatically send the approval

notifications to the applicant and the licensee upon application. Currently, the approval notification is not sent until the seventh day regardless of when the approval is granted.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: SB 27 (Senators Folden and McKay) - Judicial Proceedings.

Information Source(s): Baltimore City; Harford and Montgomery counties; cities of College Park and Frostburg; Maryland Municipal League; Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission; Comptroller's Office; Baltimore City Community College; University System of Maryland; St. Mary's College of Maryland; Department of General Services; Maryland Department of Labor; Department of Natural Resources; Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; Department of State Police; Maryland Department of Transportation; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 23, 2026
sj/lgc

Analysis by: Shirleen M. E. Pilgrim

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