

SENATE BILL 331

E4
SB 180/25 – JPR

6lr1277
CF HB 94

By: **Senators Folden, Carozza, and West**
Introduced and read first time: January 23, 2026
Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

Committee Report: Favorable
Senate action: Adopted
Read second time: February 25, 2026

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Safety – Handgun Permits – Expiration and Renewal Periods for Retired**
3 **Law Enforcement Officer**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing alternative expiration and renewal periods for a handgun
5 permit issued to a certain retired law enforcement officer; and generally relating to
6 handgun permits.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
8 Article – Public Safety
9 Section 5–301(a) and (c) and 5–304(b)(1) and (d)(2)
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
13 Article – Public Safety
14 Section 5–309
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

19 **Article – Public Safety**

20 5–301.

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 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

2 (c) "Permit" means a permit issued by the Secretary to carry, wear, or transport
3 a handgun.

4 5-304.

5 (b) (1) Subject to subsections (c) and (d) of this section, the Secretary may
6 charge a nonrefundable fee payable when an application is filed for a permit.

7 (d) The Secretary may not charge a fee under subsection (b) of this section to:

8 (2) a retired law enforcement officer of the State or a county or municipal
9 corporation of the State.

10 5-309.

11 (a) Except as provided in [subsection] **SUBSECTIONS (d) AND (E)** of this section,
12 a permit expires on the last day of the holder's birth month following 2 years after the date
13 the permit is issued.

14 (b) [Subject] **EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS SECTION**
15 **AND SUBJECT** to subsection (c) of this section, a permit may be renewed for successive
16 periods of 3 years each if, at the time of an application for renewal, the applicant possesses
17 the qualifications for the issuance of a permit and pays the renewal fee stated in this
18 subtitle.

19 (c) A person who applies for a renewal of a permit is not required to be
20 fingerprinted unless the Secretary requires a set of the person's fingerprints to resolve a
21 question of the person's identity.

22 (d) The Secretary may establish an alternative expiration date for a permit to
23 coincide with the expiration of a license, certification, or commission for:

24 (1) a private detective under Title 13 of the Business Occupations and
25 Professions Article;

26 (2) a security guard under Title 19 of the Business Occupations and
27 Professions Article; or

28 (3) a special police officer under § 3-306 of this article.

29 **(E) A PERMIT ISSUED TO A RETIRED LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER WHO**
30 **RETIRED IN GOOD STANDING FROM SERVICE WITH A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY**
31 **OF THE STATE OR A COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF THE STATE:**

1 **(1) EXPIRES ON THE LAST DAY OF THE HOLDER’S BIRTH MONTH**
2 **FOLLOWING 5 YEARS AFTER THE DATE THE PERMIT IS ISSUED; AND**

3 **(2) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, MAY BE RENEWED**
4 **FOR SUCCESSIVE PERIODS OF 5 YEARS EACH IF, AT THE TIME OF AN APPLICATION**
5 **FOR RENEWAL, THE APPLICANT POSSESSES THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE**
6 **ISSUANCE OF A PERMIT.**

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

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.