

HOUSE BILL 1268

E4
HB 769/19 – JUD

0lr3122

By: **Delegates McComas, Szeliga, Arian, Chisholm, Cox, Grammer, Hornberger, Malone, Mangione, and Reilly**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2020

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Safety – Pilot Program – Handgun Permit – Church Property**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing, in Harford County, a person to, without a permit, carry a
4 handgun on the property of a church during certain events under certain
5 circumstances and transport a handgun to and from certain church events if the
6 person has the consent of a certain church to carry a handgun on the property of the
7 church during certain events and has the intent to wear, carry, or transport a
8 handgun for certain purposes on the property of the church; requiring the Harford
9 County Sheriff to submit a certain report to the Governor and the General Assembly
10 on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally
11 relating to permits to carry, wear, or transport a handgun.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
13 Article – Public Safety
14 Section 5–303
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2019 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 5–303.

21 (A) [A] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, A person
22 shall have a permit issued under this subtitle before the person carries, wears, or transports
23 a handgun.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(B) (1) THIS SUBSECTION APPLIES ONLY IN HARFORD COUNTY.

(2) A PERSON WHO HAS THE WRITTEN CONSENT OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF A BONA FIDE CHURCH TO CARRY A HANDGUN ON THE PROPERTY OF THE CHURCH DURING SERVICES AND GATHERINGS AND HAS THE INTENT TO WEAR, CARRY, OR TRANSPORT A HANDGUN FOR PURPOSES RELATED TO SELF-PROTECTION OR THE PROTECTION OF OTHERS WHILE ON THE PROPERTY OF THE CHURCH MAY, WITHOUT A PERMIT, WITH ADVANCE NOTICE TO THE HARFORD COUNTY SHERIFF:

(I) CARRY A HANDGUN ON THE PROPERTY OF THE CHURCH DURING SERVICES AND GATHERINGS; AND

(II) TRANSPORT A HANDGUN TO AND FROM SERVICES AND GATHERINGS OF THE CHURCH.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before December 31, 2021, the Harford County Sheriff shall report to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly on the effect on Harford County of § 5-303(b) of the Public Safety Article, as enacted by Section 1 of this Act, including:

(1) the number of persons who have obtained written consent to carry a handgun on the property of a church in Harford County under this Act;

(2) the number of times that handguns have been carried without a permit on the property of a church in Harford County under this Act;

(3) the effect of this Act on public safety in Harford County; and

(4) any problems that have been experienced in Harford County as a result of this Act.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2020. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30, 2022, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.