

# HOUSE BILL 769

E4

9lr2140

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By: **Harford County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2019

Assigned to: Judiciary

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Harford County Parishioner Protection Pilot Program**

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 or religious organization during certain events  
5 and transport a handgun to and from certain church or religious organization events  
6 if the person has the consent of a certain church or religious organization to carry a  
7 handgun on the property of the church or religious organization during certain  
8 events and has the intent to wear, carry, or transport a handgun for certain purposes  
9 on the property of the church or religious organization; requiring the Harford County  
10 Sheriff to submit a certain report to the Governor and the General Assembly on or  
11 before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating  
12 to permits to carry, wear, or transport a handgun.

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
14 Article – Public Safety  
15 Section 5–303  
16 Annotated Code of Maryland  
17 (2018 Replacement Volume)

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

20 **Article – Public Safety**

21 5–303.

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

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

2           **(2) A PERSON WHO HAS THE WRITTEN CONSENT OF THE GOVERNING**  
3 **BOARD OF A BONA FIDE CHURCH OR RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION TO CARRY A**  
4 **HANDGUN ON THE PROPERTY OF THE CHURCH OR RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION**  
5 **DURING SERVICES AND GATHERINGS AND HAS THE INTENT TO WEAR, CARRY, OR**  
6 **TRANSPORT A HANDGUN FOR PURPOSES RELATED TO SELF-PROTECTION OR THE**  
7 **PROTECTION OF OTHERS WHILE ON THE PROPERTY OF THE CHURCH OR RELIGIOUS**  
8 **ORGANIZATION MAY, WITHOUT A PERMIT:**

9                           **(I) CARRY A HANDGUN ON THE PROPERTY OF THE CHURCH OR**  
10 **RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION DURING SERVICES AND GATHERINGS; AND**

11                           **(II) TRANSPORT A HANDGUN TO AND FROM SERVICES AND**  
12 **GATHERINGS OF THE CHURCH OR RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION.**

13           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before December 31,  
14 2020, the Harford County Sheriff shall report to the Governor and, in accordance with §  
15 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly on the effect on Harford  
16 County of § 5-303(b) of the Public Safety Article, as enacted by Section 1 of this Act,  
17 including:

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

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

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

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

26           SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
27 1, 2019. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30, 2021,  
28 this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and  
29 of no further force and effect.