



## Maryland State Rifle and Pistol Association

### *A Guide To Obtaining The Maryland Handgun Qualification License*

Unless otherwise exempt, as of October 1, 2013, a Maryland resident must possess a valid Handgun Qualification License before he/she may purchase, rent, or receive a handgun. Details on exemptions may be found below. **You do not need a Handgun Qualification License to own a gun you already have.** The Handgun Qualification License is only needed for purchasing, transferring, or renting a regulated firearm after October 1, 2013. Please go to [http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2013RS/chapters\\_noln/Ch\\_427\\_sb0281E.pdf](http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2013RS/chapters_noln/Ch_427_sb0281E.pdf) in order to view the full text of the Law

**Please Note:** Residency exemptions have been made for active military personnel and their spouses.

**Q:** How do you verify the credentials of current or retired military personnel?

**A:** Please refer to the following web-page.

<http://www.cac.mil/uniformed-services-id-card/>

### *Who Should Apply?*

A person may not purchase, rent, or receive a handgun after October 1, 2013 unless they possess a valid Handgun Qualification License (HQL) issued by the Maryland State Police or qualify for exemption status.

#### **Exceptions to possession of the HQL License**

1. A Licensed Firearms Manufacturer.
2. Active law enforcement officer or a person retired in good standing from a law enforcement agency of the United States, the State, or a local law enforcement agency of the State.
3. Active or retired member of the United States Armed Forces or National Guard and possesses a valid military identification card.
4. A person purchasing, renting or receiving an antique, curio or relic as defined in federal law.
5. Maryland licensed firearms dealers.

#### **Required to have the HQL, but exempt from the training component**

1. Someone who completed a firearms safety training course approved by the Secretary of the Department of Maryland State Police.
2. Has completed a course of instruction in the competency and safety of firearms as prescribed under Natural Resources Article, §10-301.1, Annotated Code of Maryland. Application for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Hunter Safety Course

Certificate can be obtained from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) [www.hunter-ed.com/maryland/](http://www.hunter-ed.com/maryland/) may be used in lieu of Qualified Handgun Instruction.

3. Is currently a qualified handgun instructor.
4. Is an honorably discharged member of the armed forces of the United States or National Guard.
5. Is an employee of an armored car company who has a handgun permit issued by MSP.
6. Lawfully owns a regulated firearm. If you already own a handgun or assault weapon prior to October 1, 2013, you do not have to complete the training to apply for the Handgun Qualification License.

In accordance with the Firearm Safety Act of 2013, individuals who are voluntarily admitted to an inpatient psychiatric facility (either state, private or acute general), for a period of 30 consecutive days or more, or involuntarily certified and retained by an Administrative Law Judge may have to surrender their firearms and will be prohibited from owning or possessing a firearm unless an individual is granted relief from firearm disqualification. The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (<http://dhmh.maryland.gov/mha/SitePages/SB281.aspx>) makes available to persons who are prohibited from possessing certain firearms a process to apply for relief from these prohibitions.

### *How to Apply*

The Handgun Qualification License is accessible online through MyLicense. For access please use the following website: <https://emdsp.mdsp.org/egov/Login.aspx> .

To apply for an HQL the law requires a fingerprint based background check ( <https://www.mdsp.org/Organization/SupportServicesBureau/LicensingDivision/MainLicensingPage/Fingerprinting.aspx> ). You cannot submit your application until this is completed, unless you already possess a Maryland Wear and Carry Permit. There are several places to obtain fingerprints. Many people use the State of Maryland Criminal Justice Information Service located at

CJIS  
6776 Reisterstown Road  
(West side of Reisterstown Road Plaza Mall)  
Suite 102 (first floor)  
Baltimore, MD 21215  
(for directions, go to <http://www.mapquest.com>)

CJIS also has a website listing other providers of fingerprint services on the following webpage <http://www.dpscs.state.md.us/publicservs/fingerprint.shtml>. Please note hours and prices vary.

Within 3 years prior to the submission of an HQL application, an applicant must demonstrate a satisfactory completion of a Firearms Safety Training Course. Qualified Handgun Instructors can be found online (<https://emdsp.mdsp.org/verification/>).

The Firearms Safety Training Course must be instructed by a Qualified Handgun Instructor, and shall consist of a minimum of 4 hours of instruction and include the following minimum curricula:

(1) State Firearm Law. Overview of the State firearm laws, including discussion of what constitutes a regulated firearm, how to properly purchase or transfer a firearm, where allowed to carry or transport a firearm, when necessary to possess a carry permit, who is prohibited from possessing firearms, and state law relating to minors, permissible levels of force, and use of deadly force.

(2) Home Firearm Safety. Overview of handgun and firearm safety in the home, including discussion of access to minors, locking and storing of firearms, and use of safety devices, such as secure lock boxes.

(3) Handgun Mechanisms and Operation. Overview of the proper operation and safe handling of a handgun, including cleaning and maintenance, the loading and unloading of ammunition, and the differences between revolvers and semi-automatic handguns.

(4) Operation and Handling Demonstration. Orientation component that demonstrates the person's safe operation and handling of a firearm, to include a "live fire" component in which the applicant safely shoots the firearm. An applicant may not be required to fire in excess of 15 yards during qualifications.

### ***How Much Does It Cost?***

Acceptable methods of payment include Visa or MasterCard

**Original/Initial – \$50.00 - Fingerprint Fees not included**

**Renewal – \$20.00 - Fingerprint not required**