

# **What SB 281 Means to You**

## **General Provisions**

- A person who owns a firearm is required to report the loss of theft of the firearm within 72 hours of discovering the loss or theft. There is a civil penalty for the first offense and a criminal penalty for the second offense.
- Under this bill, records relating to handgun purchases and handgun permits are NOT subject to the public information act.
- People moving into Maryland after October 1, 2013 with the intent of becoming a resident have 90 days to register their regulated firearms with MSP. The registration fee is \$15.

## **Rifles**

- Designates 45 rifles as “Assault Long Guns” including the AR-15, SKS, as well as any of their “copycats” and bans the sale of these firearms effective October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013.
- A “copycat” weapon is defined as a centerfire, semiautomatic rifle with a detachable magazine that has two or more of the following features:
  - Folding stock
  - Grenade or flare launcher
  - Flash suppressor
- A “copycat” also includes
  - A semiautomatic centerfire rifle that has a fixed magazine with a capacity of more than 10 rounds
  - A semiautomatic pistol with a fixed magazine that can accept more than 10 rounds
  - A semiautomatic shotgun that has a folding stock
  - A shotgun with a revolving cylinder
- This bill is NOT retroactive. If you currently own one of these firearms, or purchase prior to October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013 you can continue to possess your firearm. In addition, these firearms can continue to be passed on through inheritance provided the heir is not otherwise disqualified from possessing a Regulated Firearm.
- If you order a banned firearm prior to October 1, 2013, but do not receive your firearm before that date, you may still take possession after October 1, 2013.
- Active and retired law enforcement officers, as well as active military personnel over age 21, are EXEMPT from the provisions and restrictions of this bill.

## **Magazine Capacity and Ammunition**

- Effective October 1, 2013 magazine size for a all firearms is restricted to 10 rounds or less. The purchase, transfer, or sale of higher capacity magazines is prohibited.

- This bill is NOT retroactive. If you currently possess a large capacity magazine, you may continue to do so.
- Bans a person from possessing **any** ammunition if they are disqualified from possessing a regulated firearm (by virtue of a criminal conviction, drug or alcohol abuse, is a fugitive from justice, or suffers from a mental disorder)
- Active and retired law enforcement officers, as well as active military personnel over age 21, are EXEMPT from the provisions and restrictions of this bill.

## Handguns

- In order to purchase a handgun after October 1, 2013 you must apply to the Maryland State Police for a handgun qualification license.
- To receive the license, you must complete a Firearms Orientation Course consisting of 4 hours of classroom and range training covering state firearms law, home firearm safety, as well as handgun mechanisms and operations. The range component includes orientation specific to the firearm involving safe handling.
- The cost of the initial licensing, fingerprinting, and background check is paid by the applicant and is estimated to be over \$100.
- The course is a one-time only requirement for the initial application.
- You DO NOT have to take the training course if any of the following apply:
  - You have completed an MSP-approved certified safety course
  - You have completed the DNR hunter safety course
  - You are a currently a qualified handgun instructor
  - You are an honorably discharged member of the Armed Forces or National Guard
  - You are an employee of an armored car company who has a handgun permit issued by MSP
  - YOU LAWFULLY OWN A REGULATED FIREARM (If you already own a regulated firearm, you DO NOT have to ever complete the training to apply for the handgun purchase license.)
- To receive the license, you must submit a full set of digital fingerprints and undergo a full background check.
- Once issued, the license is good for 10 years and you are NOT required to take additional training courses or submit fingerprints when you apply to renew the license. The renewal fee is \$20.
- You DO NOT need a license to own a handgun or an assault rifle. You ONLY need the license if you are going to purchase a handgun after October 1, 2013.
- Active and retired military and police are exempt from the license requirements but must show valid credentials to the dealer to purchase. Also exempt are manufacturers and persons purchasing an antique, curio, or relic as defined by federal law.