

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2020 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1501
Judiciary

(Delegate Cain, *et al.*)

Public Safety – Regulated Firearms – Reporting Loss or Theft

This bill reduces the time period, from 72 hours to 48 hours, within which the owner of a lost or stolen regulated firearm must report the loss or theft of the firearm to the local law enforcement agency.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: State government finances are not materially affected.

Local Effect: Local government finances are not materially affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: A dealer or any other person who sells or transfers a regulated firearm must notify the purchaser or recipient of the firearm at the time of purchase or transfer that the purchaser or recipient is required to report a lost or stolen firearm to the local law enforcement agency.

If a regulated firearm is lost or stolen, the owner of the firearm must report the loss or theft to the local law enforcement agency within 72 hours after the owner first discovers the loss or theft. On receipt of a report of a lost or stolen firearm, a local law enforcement agency must report to the Secretary of State Police and enter into the National Crime Information Center database, to the extent known, the caliber, make, model, manufacturer, and serial number of the firearm and any other distinguishing number or identification mark on the firearm.

A knowing and willful first-time violation of these provisions is a civil offense punishable by a fine of up to \$500. A second or subsequent violation is a misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment for up to 90 days and/or a fine of up to \$500. The imposition of a civil or criminal penalty does not preclude the pursuit of any other civil remedy or criminal prosecution authorized by law.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Baltimore City; Harford, Montgomery, Talbot, and Wicomico counties; Maryland Association of Counties; Maryland Municipal League; Department of State Police; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 2, 2020
an/lgc

Analysis by: Shirleen M. E. Pilgrim

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510