



MARYLAND STATE POLICE

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ADVISORY

LD-HQL-23-003

November 21, 2023

U.S. COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE FOURTH CIRCUIT HANDGUN QUALIFICATION LICENSE (HQL) DECISION

On November 21, 2023, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit rendered a decision in a case questioning the constitutionality of the Handgun Qualification License (HQL) codified in Md. Public Safety Article, 5-117.1. The Fourth Circuit Court's opinion is that the HQL law is unconstitutional.

At this time, the HQL law remains in effect and there are no immediate changes in the process to purchase a firearm in Maryland. The opinion of the Fourth Circuit does not become effective until the court issues a mandate.

The Maryland State Police will issue updates on the [Maryland State Police Licensing Division](#) website and via Advisories as soon as further information becomes available.

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