

Maryland Handgun Qualification License (HQL)

1. Confirm eligibility:

- Be at least 21 years old
- Be a resident of Maryland
- Not be prohibited by federal or state law from purchasing or possessing a handgun

2. Complete required training:

- Enroll in a 4-hour firearms safety training course approved by the Secretary
- Course must include instruction on state firearm law, home firearm safety, and handgun mechanisms and operation
- Must demonstrate safe operation and handling of a firearm

3. Get fingerprinted:

- Obtain fingerprints at a Livescan Fingerprinting service provider
- Keep the fingerprint receipt for your application

4. Prepare for application:

- Have a valid government-issued photo ID ready
- Gather your training completion certificate

5. Submit application:

- Access the Maryland State Police Licensing Portal
- Choose "Firearms Services" under PROFESSION
- Select appropriate LICENSE TYPE (e.g., HQL Standard, HQL Training Exempt)
- Complete the online application form
- Upload required documents
- Pay the application fee

6. Application processing:

- The Maryland State Police will review your application
- This process can take up to 30 days

7. Receive HQL:

- Once approved, you'll receive an email notification
- Your HQL will be mailed to the address on file