

HOUSE BILL 780

E1, F2, E4
HB 1724/18 – HRU

2lr2992

By: **Delegate Jalisi**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2022

Assigned to: Appropriations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Gun-Free Higher Education Zones**

3 FOR the purpose of altering a certain exception relating to law enforcement officers to the
4 prohibition on carrying certain weapons on public school property; prohibiting the
5 carrying or possession of certain firearms on the property of public institutions of
6 higher education; requiring a public institution of higher education to post certain
7 signs at certain locations; requiring the Board of Regents for the University System
8 of Maryland to incorporate into their bylaws, policies, and procedures the current
9 weapons practice on their campuses; and generally relating to the carrying or
10 possession of firearms at public institutions of higher education.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
12 Article – Criminal Law
13 Section 4–102
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

16 BY adding to
17 Article – Education
18 Section 15–134
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

21 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
22 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

23 **Article – Criminal Law**

24 4–102.

25 (a) This section does not apply to:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (1) a law enforcement officer in the regular course of the officer's duty;

2 (2) an off-duty law enforcement officer or a person who has retired as a law
3 enforcement officer in good standing from a law enforcement agency of the United States,
4 the State, or a local unit in the State [who is a parent, guardian, or visitor of a student
5 attending a school located on the public school property], provided that:

6 (i) the officer or retired officer is [displaying] **IN POSSESSION OF**
7 the officer's or retired officer's badge or credential;

8 (ii) the weapon carried or possessed by the officer or retired officer is
9 concealed; and

10 (iii) the officer or retired officer is authorized to carry a concealed
11 handgun in the State;

12 (3) a person hired by a county board of education **OR A PUBLIC**
13 **INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION** specifically for the purpose of guarding public
14 school **OR INSTITUTION** property;

15 (4) a person engaged in organized shooting activity for educational
16 purposes; [or]

17 (5) a person who, with a written invitation from the school principal **OR**
18 **THE PRESIDENT OF THE PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION**, displays or
19 engages in a historical demonstration using a weapon or a replica of a weapon for
20 educational purposes;

21 **(6) A PERSON CARRYING OR POSSESSING A FIREARM ON THE**
22 **PROPERTY OF A PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION WHO IS REQUIRED OR**
23 **AUTHORIZED BY POLICIES OF THE PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO**
24 **POSSESS A FIREARM;**

25 **(7) AN EMPLOYEE OF AN ARMORED CAR COMPANY WHO IS:**

26 **(I) AUTHORIZED TO CARRY A FIREARM IN THE STATE IN THE**
27 **REGULAR COURSE OF EMPLOYMENT; AND**

28 **(II) CARRYING OR POSSESSING A FIREARM ON THE PROPERTY**
29 **OF A PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION;**

30 **(8) THE AREA SURROUNDING A BUILDING OWNED OR OPERATED BY A**
31 **PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF STUDENT**
32 **HOUSING, TEACHING, RESEARCH, OR ADMINISTRATION, IF:**

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1 **PROMINENT LOCATIONS ON THE PROPERTY OF THE PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF**
2 **HIGHER EDUCATION, INCLUDING AT ENTRANCES TO AND EXITS FROM THE**
3 **PROPERTY, DESIGNED TO PROVIDE NOTICE OF THE PROVISIONS OF § 4-102(B)(2)**
4 **OF THE CRIMINAL LAW ARTICLE PROHIBITING THE POSSESSION OF FIREARMS.**

5 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Board of Regents for the
6 University System of Maryland shall incorporate into their bylaws, policies, and procedures
7 the current weapons practice on their campuses.

8 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
9 October 1, 2022.