

MARYLAND'S GHOST GUN BAN

WHAT IS A GHOST GUN?

Ghost guns are privately made firearms that lack serial numbers on the frame or receiver. Firearm parts kits, including easy-to-complete unfinished frames or receivers, enable individuals to make fully functional ghost guns without ever passing a background check. The new law will ban the purchase of ghost guns sold in kits over the Internet and then assembled by the purchaser.

Ghost guns are difficult for law enforcement to trace because there is no paper trail of background checks and ownership, and no serial number that could lead law enforcement back to the buyer.

RECENT LEGISLATION PASSED BY THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Maryland's new law prohibits buying, selling, and transferring an "unfinished frame or receiver" if it does not have a serial number imprinted by a licensed manufacturer and prohibits owning a gun without a serial number.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Effective June 1, 2022 – A person may not purchase, sell, or transfer a firearm or an unfinished frame or receiver unless it has been imprinted with a serial number in accordance with federal law.

Effective March 1, 2023 – A person may not possess an unserialized firearm or unfinished frame or receiver.

