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# STATEMENT

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## **Attorney General Brown’s Statement on Fourth Circuit’s Decision Today in *Maryland Shall Issue v. Wes Moore* Upholding Maryland’s Handgun Licensing Law**

**BALTIMORE, MD (August 23, 2024)** – Attorney General Anthony Brown issued the following statement after the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit today upheld Maryland’s law requiring most residents to obtain a license before purchasing a handgun.

In a 14-2 decision, the court in *Maryland Shall Issue v. Wes Moore* rejected a Second Amendment challenge to a state law requiring a Handgun Qualification License to purchase a handgun. Applicants for the license are required to submit fingerprints, undergo a background check and complete a training course. Certain residents, including current or retired law enforcement officers in good standing and current or retired members of the United States military are exempt.

Maryland’s Handgun Qualification Licensing law was enacted in 2013 after the mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, in 2012 that resulted in the deaths of 20 children and six adults.

Today’s decision comes after hearing before the full court of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit earlier this year.

“This is a great day for Maryland and for common-sense gun safety. We must ensure guns stay out of the hands of those who are not allowed, under our laws, to carry them. The application for a gun license and the required training and background check, are all critical safety checks. Common-sense gun safety laws protect all Marylanders and can prevent tragedies that leave our communities scarred and broken from ever happening in the first place. I have said it before and I will say it again, hopes and wishes do not stop deadly violence from erupting on our streets, but common-sense gun laws can.”

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