

Maryland
Partial Point-of-Contact State

Firearm Background Checks Administered By:

[Maryland Department of State Police](#) or
[FBI National Instant Criminal Background Check System \(NICS\)](#)

Maryland Department of State Police conducts background checks for handguns and items identified in state law as “regulated.” Regulated firearms include specific firearms identified as “assault weapons” and copies of those firearms. All other firearm background checks are conducted by FBI NICS.

Identified Background Check Responses:

Standard NICS Response	POC Response (equivalent)	Explanatory Notes (if any)
Proceed	Not Disapproved	FFL may transfer firearm after required 7-day state waiting period for regulated firearms or may immediately transfer a non-regulated firearm.
	Overturned – Not Disapproved	FFL may transfer firearm after required 7-day state waiting period for regulated firearms or may immediately transfer a non-regulated firearm.
Delay	Initial Review	State has initiated background check. FFL may not transfer firearm until after required 7-day state waiting period for regulated firearms.
	Placed on hold	State has initiated background check but has not yet resolved results. FFL may not transfer firearm until after required 7-day state waiting period for regulated firearms.
	Delay	NICS Background check initiated by FFL for non-regulated firearm. FFL may transfer firearm after 3-business day period for NICS background check review.
Deny	Disapproved Other/Disapproved Prohibited	FFL may not transfer firearm(s).
Cancelled	Cancelled	Background check stopped prior to final response. FFL may not transfer firearm(s).
	Expired	Transaction not disapproved but transfer not completed within 90-day timeframe. New check must be initiated prior to transfer if firearm.

* All Federal Firearm Licensees are responsible for verifying whether Background Check alternatives exist in their state of operation ([Permanent Brady Permit Chart](#)) as well as any other applicable state laws affecting firearm transactions ([State Laws & Published Ordinances](#)).

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Continued

Unique Transaction Number (Format Notes and/or Issuance Timelines):

State conducted background checks do not have a unique identification number. NICS checks have the standard NICS Transaction Number.

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