

6-107A regarding possession of firearms around private property;

2. Baltimore County Code § 18-9(a) which makes it unlawful for a person under 21 to purchase, trade, acquire or possess certain weapons except under certain circumstances. See also Prince George's County Code § 14-141 relating to the transfer of weapons to minors;

3. Montgomery County Code §§ 57-7 and 57-8 regulating the possession and carrying of certain firearms on the person or in a motor vehicle where it is readily available for use; see also Baltimore City Code, Article 19 § 97 relating to unlawful possession and transportation of rifles and shotguns under certain circumstances.

4. Anne Arundel County Code §§ 6-109 and 6-110 prohibiting the storage (except in place for blasting) of gunpowder exceeding 100 pounds or any dynamite or nitroglycerine or other explosives in any quantity whatsoever within 3 miles of any city or town; See also, Baltimore City Code, Art. 9 §§ 21 et seq. concerning the manufacture, storage and permit requirements relating to explosives.

Under current law the State has expressly preempted the regulation of the possession and sale as well as the wearing, carrying and transportation of handguns, Md. Ann. Code Article 27 § 442(a) and 445(a) (1983 Cum. Supp.), although the extent of preemption in this area is currently in litigation pending before the Court of Appeals. Montgomery County v. Atlantic Guns, Inc. (Sept. Term, 1983). State law also forbids the possession of short-barrelled rifles and shotguns and long barrelled rifles and shotguns under certain circumstances. Md. Ann. Code Article 27, §§ 36A, 36G, and 481C (1983 Cum. Supp.). Generally, however, the possession and carrying (as well as the discharge) of rifles and shotguns, for example, is not extensively regulated by State law and local home rule governments may legislate in this area.

When the General Assembly expressly preempted local legislation with respect to handguns, it substituted a comprehensive statewide regulatory scheme that provided enhanced protection to the public. See, Chapter 13 of the Laws of Maryland of 1972. It is this lack of a substitute comprehensive approach that I find deficient in the context of this legislation. For that reason, I am unwilling to sign into law a bill that would invalidate the judgment of local elected officials when they determine that local legislation of the type described above concerning firearms, ammunition, or explosives is required within a particular jurisdiction.

Consequently, I have decided to veto House Bill 315.

Sincerely,