



MARYLAND STATE POLICE

Maryland Department of State Police / Licensing Division
1111 Reisterstown Road
Pikesville, Maryland
Office: (410) 653.4500 / Fax: (410) 653.4036

ADVISORY

LD-FRU-23-001

March 24, 2023

MSP Statement Regarding ATF Final Rule 2021R-08F (Stabilizing Arm Braces)

The Maryland State Police Licensing Division has reviewed the recent ATF Final Rule regarding stabilizing arm braces. The new federal regulations have reclassified many firearms with rearward attachments (stabilizing arm braces) as short-barreled rifles, therefore making them subject to National Firearms Act (NFA) requirements. More information on this may be found on the ATF's website ([FINAL RULE 2021R-08F](#)). This ruling by the ATF does not change Maryland Statute nor the interpretation of the following definitions:

- **Handgun** (CR 4-201(c)(1) "Handgun" means a pistol, revolver, or other firearm capable of being concealed on the person. (2) "Handgun" includes a short-barreled shotgun and a short-barreled rifle. (3) "Handgun" does not include a shotgun, rifle, or antique firearm.).
- **Rifle** (CR 4-201(e) "Rifle" means a weapon that is: (1) designed or redesigned, made or remade, and intended to be fired from the shoulder; and (2) designed or redesigned, and made or remade to use the energy of the explosive in a fixed metallic cartridge to fire only a single projectile through a rifled bore for each single pull of the trigger.).
- **Short-Barreled Rifle (SBR)** (CR 4-201(f) "Short-barreled rifle" means: (1) a rifle that has one or more barrels less than 16 inches long; or (2) a weapon that has an overall length of less than 26 inches and that was made from a rifle, whether by alteration, modification, or otherwise.).

Even though there are differences in interpretation of these firearms between State and federal laws and regulations, the policies and procedures of how these firearms are classified and processed by the Maryland State Police remain unchanged. Firearms previously classified as handguns with stabilizing braces remain classified as handguns by Maryland statute and require no additional documentation be provided to the Maryland State Police.

However, since the ATF, in accordance with Final Rule 2021R-08F, has re-classified these firearms as Short-Barreled Rifles, Marylanders possessing one of these firearms will be required to submit an ATF Form-1 to register the firearm in accordance with the NFA by May 31, 2023. The ATF has provided the following compliance options to all possessors of these firearms:

Alert Advisories are a service of the Maryland Department of State Police. The content of this document is for OFFICIAL USE ONLY. Any request for disclosure of this document, or the information contained herein, should be referred to either the originator of the Advisory, or the Maryland Department of State Police, Licensing Division, 410.653.4500.



MARYLAND STATE POLICE

1. Remove the short barrel and attach a 16-inch or longer rifled barrel to the firearm.
2. Permanently remove and dispose of, or alter, the “stabilizing brace” such that it cannot be reattached.
3. Turn the firearm into your local ATF office.
4. Destroy the firearm.
5. Register the weapon as set forth above.

Contact information for the ATF and additional information concerning ATF Final Rule 2021R-08F can be found on the ATF’s website by clicking www.atf.gov/rules-and-regulations/factoring-criteria-firearms-attached-stabilizing-braces.

For further information, please visit our website by clicking: [Maryland State Police Licensing Division](#) . If you need further assistance or have additional questions, you may contact the Licensing Division at msp.firearmsregistration@maryland.gov. Regulated Firearms Dealers may contact us using the LiveHelp feature within the Licensing Portal.

Alert Advisories are a service of the Maryland Department of State Police. The content of this document is for OFFICIAL USE ONLY. Any request for disclosure of this document, or the information contained herein, should be referred to either the originator of the Advisory, or the Maryland Department of State Police, Licensing Division, 410.653.4500.