

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 15-0582
(First Reader)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Spector, Costello, Kraft, Branch, President Young,

Councilmembers Clarke, Reisinger, Welch, Curran, Henry

Introduced and read first time: October 19, 2015

Assigned to: Judiciary and Legislative Investigations Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Police Department

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ORDINANCE concerning

2 **Dangerous Knives –**
3 **Transfer, etc., to or Permitting Possession, etc., by Individual Under 21**

4 FOR the purpose of prohibiting the sale, giving away, or other transfer of certain knives to
5 individuals under the age of 21; prohibiting a person from permitting the use or possession of
6 these dangerous knives by individuals under the age of 21; defining certain terms; imposing
7 certain penalties; and conforming language and penalties in related provisions dealing with
8 switchblade knives.

9 BY repealing and reordaining, with amendments

10 Article 19 - Police Ordinances
11 Section 59-22
12 Baltimore City Code
13 (Edition 2000)

14 BY adding

15 Article 19 - Police Ordinances
16 Section 59-23
17 Baltimore City Code
18 (Edition 2000)

19 **SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the
20 Laws of Baltimore City read as follows:

21 **Baltimore City Code**

22 **Article 19. Police Ordinances**

23 **Subtitle 59. Weapons**

24 ***Part 3. Other Weapons***

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

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§ 59-22. [Switch-blade] SWITCHBLADE knives – POSSESSION OR SALE, ETC.

(A) *“PERSON” DEFINED.*

IN THIS SECTION, “PERSON” MEANS ANY INDIVIDUAL, PARTNERSHIP, FIRM, ASSOCIATION, CORPORATION, LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, OR OTHER ENTITY OF ANY KIND.

(B) [(a) *Possession or sale, etc., prohibited.*] *PROHIBITED POSSESSION OR SALE, ETC.*

[It shall be unlawful for any] NO person [to] MAY sell, carry, or possess any knife with an automatic spring or other device for opening [and/or] OR closing the blade, commonly known as a [switch-blade] SWITCHBLADE knife.

(C) [(b)] *Penalties.*

Any person [violating the provisions] WHO VIOLATES ANY PROVISION of this section IS GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR AND, [shall, upon] ON conviction [thereof], [be fined] is subject to a fine of not more than [\$500] \$1,000 or [be imprisoned] TO IMPRISONMENT for not more than [1 year,] 12 MONTHS or TO both FINE AND IMPRISONMENT FOR EACH OFFENSE[, in the discretion of the court].

§ 59-23. DANGEROUS KNIVES – TRANSFER TO, ETC., INDIVIDUALS UNDER 21.

(A) *DEFINITIONS.*

(1) *IN GENERAL.*

IN THIS SECTION, THE FOLLOWING TERMS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(2) *DANGEROUS KNIFE.*

“DANGEROUS KNIFE” MEANS ANY:

(I) BOWIE KNIFE;

(II) DIRK KNIFE;

(III) GRAVITY KNIFE;

(IV) SHOOTING KNIFE, AS DESCRIBED IN STATE CRIMINAL LAW ARTICLE § 4-105;

(V) STAR KNIFE, AS DEFINED IN STATE CRIMINAL LAW ARTICLE § 4-101;

(VI) STRAIGHT RAZOR;

(VII) SWITCHBLADE KNIFE, AS DESCRIBED IN § 59-22 OF THIS SUBTITLE OR IN STATE CRIMINAL LAW ARTICLE § 4-105; OR

(VIII) ANY KNIFE WITH A BLADE THAT IS LONGER THAN 3 INCHES.

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1 (3) *PERSON.*

2 “PERSON” MEANS ANY INDIVIDUAL, PARTNERSHIP, FIRM, ASSOCIATION, CORPORATION,
3 LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, OR OTHER ENTITY OF ANY KIND.

4 (B) *PROHIBITED TRANSFER TO, ETC., INDIVIDUALS UNDER 21.*

5 NO PERSON MAY SELL, GIVE, OR OTHERWISE TRANSFER A DANGEROUS KNIFE TO, OR
6 PERMIT THE USE OR POSSESSION OF A DANGEROUS KNIFE BY, ANY INDIVIDUAL THAT THE
7 PERSON KNOWS OR HAS REASONABLE CAUSE TO BELIEVE IS UNDER THE AGE OF 21.

8 (C) *PENALTIES.*

9 ANY PERSON WHO VIOLATES ANY PROVISION OF THIS SECTION IS GUILTY OF A
10 MISDEMEANOR AND, ON CONVICTION, IS SUBJECT TO A FINE OF NOT MORE THAN \$1,000
11 OR TO IMPRISONMENT FOR NOT MORE THAN 12 MONTHS OR TO BOTH FINE AND
12 IMPRISONMENT FOR EACH OFFENSE.

13 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED,** That the catchlines contained in this Ordinance
14 are not law and may not be considered to have been enacted as a part of this or any prior
15 Ordinance.

16 **SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED,** That this Ordinance takes effect on the 30th day
17 after the date it is enacted.