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Judicial Proceedings Committee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 3, 2020

SB 672 Criminal Law - Theft of a Handgun

Chairman Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

Senate Bill 672 would classify the theft of a handgun as a separate felony offense. The first conviction would impose an additional 5 years imprisonment with a minimum of 2, and/or \$1,000 fine. The second conviction would impose an additional 10 years imprisonment with a minimum of 5 and/or up to \$2,500 fine.

In 2018, the total number of firearms recovered and traced in Maryland was 11,096¹. From the Maryland State Police Database (see attachment, there were 569 murders in Maryland in 2017, 401 of those murders were committed with handguns. Also in 2017, 45% of robberies in Maryland were committed with a handgun.

From this information, it's clear see that handguns are popular with criminals for obvious reasons – among them effectiveness and concealability. We need to get illegal guns off of the streets of Maryland and reduce the crimes they are used to commit.

I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 672

¹ "Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives," Firearms Trace Data - 2018 | Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, accessed March 2, 2020, <https://www.atf.gov/resource-center/firearms-trace-data-2018>