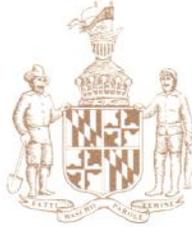


KATHLEEN M. DUMAIS  
Legislative District 15  
Montgomery County

—  
*Vice Chair*  
Economic Matters Committee

*Chair*  
Property and Casualty Insurance  
Subcommittee

—  
*House Chair*  
Joint Committee on Legislative Ethics



The Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen Street, Room 231  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3052 · 301-858-3052  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3052  
Fax 410-841-3219 · 301-858-3219  
Kathleen.Dumais@house.state.md.us

*The Maryland House of Delegates*  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**February 26, 2020**

**Testimony in Support of House Bill 910 – Criminal Law – Untraceable Firearms**

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you on behalf of **House Bill 910 – Criminal Law – Untraceable Firearms**.

Through the imposition of background checks and by strengthening our ability to trace guns that are used in illegal acts, we have made significant strides in keeping guns out of the hands of people who pose a risk to our communities. Our progress has been impeded, however, by loopholes that have resulted in “home-made” untraceable firearms that are not subject to background checks.

One class of untraceable firearms is commonly called “ghost guns.” These are assembled by components that can be purchased online and shipped separately, then put together by their purchaser. They have no serial number because the separate parts require none. This bill targets guns that are untraceable due to a lack of a serial number by making it illegal to transport, manufacture, possess, sell, offer to sell, transfer, purchase, or receive a firearm that is not imprinted with a serial number issued by a federally licensed firearms manufacturer. Guns manufactured before 1968 were not required to have serial numbers and do not fall within the parameters of House Bill 910; nor do firearms that have permanently been rendered inoperable.

House Bill 910 targets another class of untraceable firearms, which the bill defines as “covert firearm.” A covert firearm is constructed in a shape or configuration that does not look like a firearm. They include guns that resemble keychains, pens, cigarette lighters, cigarette packages, cell phones, wallets, or canes. This measure also defines and proscribes “undetectable firearms.” Metal detectors fail to identify these guns because the stock, grips and magazines have been removed. Nor are they picked up by the type of X-ray machine commonly used at airports because the machine does not generate an image that accurately depicts the shape of the slide, cylinder, frame, receiver, or barrel.

Similarly, “do-it-yourself” 3-D printed firearms evade background checks, and these plastic, computer generated guns cannot be traced because they have no serial number imprint. The computer technology that enables the manufacture of this type of weapon is evolving rapidly, and our laws need to keep pace. To tighten the loophole through which these firearms

slip, House Bill 910 stipulates that someone may not use a 3-D printer to manufacture a firearm. Nor may someone possess, sell, offer to sell, transfer, purchase, or receive such a firearm. Furthermore, one may not distribute a computer program designed for the creation of this type of firearm.

A violation of this measure is a misdemeanor subject to no more than two years imprisonment and/or a maximum fine of \$5000. Where appropriate, this bill will not apply to federally licensed firearms dealers, importers, and manufacturers; or Maryland state licensed dealers.

This legislation will advance the goal of making our communities safer and add to the body of common sense gun laws Maryland has enacted in recent years. House Bill 910 will help ensure that guns used to commit crimes can be traced and that “do-it-yourself” guns will not evade background checks. I respectfully request a favorable report.