

Nicholas DeTello

SB0533 Criminal Law - Theft of a Handgun

Favorable

2/16/2022

I am a student, Eagle Scout, family man, as well as a Civil Rights Enthusiast. I have voted independently, I am currently registered as a Libertarian, and I have a diverse set of views (some left, some right). These include but are not limited to: equality, limiting abuse of police power, protection of minority groups (such as my direct LGBT family) and decriminalization of victimless crimes (drug possession, gun possession, exercising civil rights, etc.). As a Maryland gunowner I am frequently subjected to new and deceptive forms of gun control, all the while theft of a firearm has the same criminal punishment as stealing any other household item. For this reason I urge a favorable report of Senate Bill 0533.

Over the last few years there have been multiple, often successful attempts to pass gun control bills that targeted gun owners, often with arbitrary and capricious requirements or punishments. The long gun transfer bill, which became law this last year, is one example – the penalty for privately selling my neighbor a shotgun, or a .22 bolt action ranges from six months to three years under that law. This year's version of the homemade firearm ban would put a gunowner in jail for three years/\$10k fine per homemade firearm!

What's truly unfortunate is that this desire for stronger penalties doesn't quite extend to *theft* of a firearm. In my mind, stealing a firearm is a true crime – there's always at least one victim, the gunowner who was stolen from, and often subsequent victims who are targeted by the thief, with the stolen firearm. Clearly we should penalize this crime – where we know for certain there were victims, right?

For the purposes of targeting legitimate crime, specifically stealing a firearm, I urge you to vote favorably on Senate Bill 0533.

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