

Bill SB387  
Gene Kohler  
Unfavorable

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I oppose this bill for the following reasons:

1. This Bill will do nothing to increase public safety or decrease the growing violent crime rate in Maryland, Particularly in Baltimore which, we have to admit is the nexus of the problem.

a) Firearms tracing is seldom useful in solving the crime.

b) Most firearms USED in crime are never recovered. (per Baltimore Chief of police during testimony in 2013).

c) Banning a particular type or class of firearm has never been shown to increase public safety nor decrease violent crime. In 2013 multiple firearms were banned and measures to prevent illegal transfer of firearms (eg: straw purchases). Subsequently Maryland expanded the requirements for background checks in private transfers. YET ONCE FSA OF 2013 TOOK EFFECT AND AFTER DROPPING FOR A DECADE, THE RATE OF FIREARM RELATED VIOLENCE AND VIOLENCE IN GENERAL WITHIN A YEAR NOT ONLY DID NOT DROP BUT INCREASED TO RECORD NUMBERS AND RECORD RATES AND CONTINUE TO DO SO ANNUALLY. So not only have firearm restrictions not helped, arguably, they have exacerbated the problem. We usually look at homicides as the relevant statistic, but I would postulate that the only factor keeping Baltimore homicides from rising even more dramatically is the expertise of Shock Trauma in saving victims that would otherwise have become a homicide statistic- expertise obtained from experience in treating the exponentially number of violently injured patients.

d) there is no statistic that indicates that there is an issue with so called ghost guns. The reported increase in seizures if these firearms is still a minuscule percentage of seized guns..AND not all, maybe even most of seized firearms were not used in actual commission of a violent act, but were seized incident to some other occurrence, eg a traffic stop or a search concerning a different type of crime.

2. The only effect that this bill will do is to make hundreds of law abiding hobbyists criminals at the stroke of a pen.

3. There is no infrastructure in place to allow law abiding citizens to comply with this law. Too few FFL class 7 business to do the engraving even if they would agree to accept the liability and extra record keeping.

4. This bill has too many vague components, skirts federal law. It is a poorly written and poorly conceived bill that punishes law abiding citizens and will have no public safety benefit.

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