

Please **OPPOSE** SB 387
Public Safety – Untraceable and Undetectable Firearms

I'm going to ask people to be very open minded and to step outside the fear mongering associated with this bill and imagine yourself within the sportsman/hobbyist culture.

A TELLING ABSENCE

Had this bill started with "A person who commits a crime with a home made firearm shall have 3 years added to their sentence" I would believe that it was all about the criminal misuse of firearms but instead, I see this as 100% aimed at the workshop craftsman; nothing more, nothing less. Why is the onerous burden and expense squarely on the non-criminal? It seems that the only "ghost" in this bill is the criminal because they are nowhere to be seen.

THIS NEEDS TO BE DONE YESTERDAY

Even after two whole years into this pandemic the State of Maryland has not yet vaccinated the entire population yet less than half that amount of time is allotted for firearm owners to spend their own money to jump through hoops to legalize what is currently legal.

SAYING OUTLOUD THE USUALLY QUIET PART

Having been raised in an anti-firearm I know quite well that firearms that the government doesn't have on a list are firearms that can't be confiscated in the future.^[1] Lets be honest, THIS is what is driving this bill.

SINS OF THE FATHE...GREAT GRANDFATHER

So something that one's great grandfather made can now land a person in legal jeopardy? An inanimate object that was perfectly legal for the duration of your grandfather's and father's life is now a horrible crime? Generational punishment skipping? The grand kid is guilty for an innocent act that happened 50+ years ago? It should make all of us, non-firearm owners included, wonder; what innocuous things are we all doing today that will land our grandchildren in prison?

YODA: "Fear is the path to the dark side. Fear leads to anger. Anger leads to hate. Hate leads to suffering [of the wrong people]."

I find it so unfortunate that an irrational fear of simple objects continues, year after year here in Annapolis, to metastasize into outright hatred for the firearm owner with the constant "we'll get'em this time" bills continuing to manifest. I also find it sad to continuously, see bills to further bludgeon those that seem to be perceived as lower than criminals political enemies; I assure you, the firearm owner is not.

ARE YOU BEING EMOTIONALLY MANIPULATED?

Every parent knows the song in Disney's "Beauty and the Beast" that goes:

"The beast will make off with your children,
he'll come after them in the night.
We're not safe 'till his head is mounted on my wall.
I say we kill the beast!
...
Raise the flag, sing this song,
here we come we're fifty strong.
And fifty Frenchmen can't be wrong,

let's kill the beast!"

Our culture mocks the under informed mob mentality of fear that lashes out at things and people they don't understand. Lawmakers certainly don't fully understand firearm owners given the laws they propose year after year. To learn that some people make their own firearms seems to have pushed some people into the mindset of Disney or perhaps Shelley's torch carrying mob in Frankenstein. I assure you that Maryland's firearm owners are not monsters that need to be destroyed by targeted harsh laws for committing the "crime" of being very mechanically inclined.

WHAT WAS OK FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS IS NOW CRIMINAL?

Is this bill about the criminal or is it about discouraging the hobbyist from building their own firearms as their great, great, (8 more times) grandfather has done perfectly legally since even before the founding of this country? When a bill is contrary to more than 240 years of a country's history perhaps the bill isn't the proper approach to the perceived problem.

CASPER THE FRIENDLY GHOST (GUN)

The term "ghost gun" is an emotional term to viscerally invoke fear; it is an attempt to control your beliefs and views. Every one I've seen at the gun range is a colorful, creative expression of someone's exceptional skills that evokes not fear but awe.

CAN'T A PERSON HAVE SOME PRIVACY?

Why is it that government has the most privacy? We as citizens have to Freedom of Information Act (FIOA) to get the most basic information for government transparency yet government knows EVERYTHING about us. There are many things that should remain private. Its NO ONE'S business.

THE UNTOLLED BURDEN ON THE EXTREME COLLECTOR

When my family cleaned out my grandmother's house after her passing we found dozens of knitting projects. Dozens! Its just what she did. I have seen pictures on social media of people with dozens of homemade firearms projects. What will be the financial and time burden on them? And what about the next hoop and the next and the one after that. We all know that there will be more hoops and legal threats just to break the bank and will of the firearm owner. Are we still a free people if every year one has to wonder what new noose has been designed for us.

THE EVER RESOURCEFUL CRIMINAL

If a criminal steals a newly serialized "ghost gun", the first thing any self-respecting criminal will do is file off that number and then we're right back to it being a "ghost" where we started. So we're left with the conclusion that it NEVER was about the criminal now was it.

Remember, this bill is meant to address less than 15% of crime committed with guns. How about putting effort against the 6 TIMES more crime out there in a way that won't purposefully target the regular citizens.

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[1] <https://crimeresearch.org/2022/02/at-real-clear-politics-democrats-pushing-gun-registry-as-precursor-to-gun-ban/>