



JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR.
County Executive

JOEL N. BELLER
Acting Director of Government Affairs

JOSHUA M. GREENBERG
Associate Director of Government Affairs

MIA R. GOGEL
Associate Director of Government Affairs

BILL NO.: **HB 425**

TITLE: Public Safety - Untraceable Firearms

SPONSOR: The Speaker (By Request – Office of the Attorney General)

COMMITTEE: Judiciary

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 9, 2022

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 425 – Public Safety - Untraceable Firearms. This legislation would alter the definition of a firearm to include an unfinished frame or receiver, and ban the sale, purchase, receiving, transferring and offer of sale of the unfinished frame or receiver.

Under current law, an unfinished frame or receiver does not meet the statutory definition of “firearm.” These unfinished frames and receivers may be 3D printed and sold without being formally registered or imprinted with an identifying serial number. However, by simply drilling one or two holes in the frame, these objects instantly become a functioning firearm. The distinction in current statute effectively allows for the transfer and sale of untraceable firearms, otherwise known as “ghost guns,” which may not be discovered until they have already been used in the perpetration of a crime.

By altering the definition of “firearm” to include unfinished frames and receivers, HB 425 closes the loophole which has allowed for an unregulated untraceable firearm market to exist. Ensuring that firearms are traceable and sold only to approved customers with the training to handle them safely continues to be a priority of Baltimore County. Further gun safety regulation will assist County law enforcement as they continue to combat violent crime and keep residents safe.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 425. For more information, please contact Joel Beller, Acting Director of Government Affairs at jbeller@baltimorecountymd.gov.