

Nicholas DeTello

HB425 Public Safety – Untraceable Firearms

Unfavorable

2/9/2022

I am a Software Developer, Eagle Scout, family man, as well as a Civil Rights Enthusiast. I have voted independently, 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: social justice, limiting abuse of police power, protection of minority groups (such as my direct LGBT family) and decriminalization of victimless crimes (drug possession, exercising civil rights, etc). I am also a firearms owner that will be impacted by this bill, and I urge an unfavorable report of House Bill 425.

Just this last year there were many calls to reform police authority; would this bill not put another tool in the officer's belt to enforce the law unjustly? Per the below link there are over 18,000 imprisoned in Maryland, many for victimless crimes made-up by overly zealous crime bills (i.e. drug possession, gun possession, etc):

<https://worldpopulationreview.com/state-rankings/prison-population-by-state>

To make **real** change in our state we should focus on good bills, like requiring body cameras on police officers, repealing qualified immunity, and sorely needed bills that decriminalize victimless crimes such as drug use; focusing on rehabilitation, especially for the mentally ill, impoverished, and commonly targeted minority communities.

In addition to being unfair, the bill is difficult to comply with. Take notice of Figure 1 and 2 below; how is a gunowner supposed to comply with the proposed bill for these 3D printed guns?



Figure 1 - 3D printed Repringer



Figure 2 - 3D printed "boomerang" Glock

In the case of Figure 1, the gun was never designed with the intent of placing a serialized metal plate on it; where would you even put one without destroying the firearm, making it difficult to fire, permanently changing the functionality/longevity of the design, or some combination of the above? This type of gun is made entirely from parts bought at Home Depot, it requires many painstaking hours, (in my personal experience days), and in the end the gun is a single-shot, extremely underpowered hobbyist weapon. There is no reason this gun would ever be employed in a crime; it has no monetary value, and it has special meaning to the maker of it.

In the case of Figure 2, the "boomerang" design has *some* potential to find a place to put a plate; however, how would you affix it without cracking the weak layer lines inherent to 3D printing? You are rolling the dice modifying this gun; much effort and time is put into printing and assembling such a successful, beautiful design – and two screw holes is all it would take to potentially destroy this frame or weaken it such that it could fail catastrophically in the future. Not only is this a liability placed on gunowners, but there is also no recourse for when the firearm eventually does fail; it would not be legal to print the gun again and swap the serialized plate out yet doing so illegally is what this bill encourages (since doing so could not possibly be enforced upon, at least not fairly or consistently). Again, this is very clearly a hobbyist weapon; why would a criminal want such an unwieldy firearm, clearly made with the intent of amusement at the range, and for displaying in the home/the internet?

To further drive home the point of home building, and sportsmanship, take notice of Figure 3 below, a picture of the "Gun Makers Match".



Figure 3 - 3D printed gun competition

3D printing guns is MORE than a simple hobby; it is a sport. In figure 3 we can clearly see many people showed up to the 2021 Gun Makers Match in St. Augustine, Florida. The guns were all DIY, all made by a diverse group of 50 people from over a dozen states, including our own state of Maryland! Clearly this is a popular and growing event of peaceful sportsmen – why deny Marylanders the ability to compete in national events? Further reading below:

<https://www.thetruthaboutguns.com/50-competitors-shoot-it-out-in-the-first-gun-makers-match-competition-for-home-built-firearms/>

To conclude, there are many reasons to not vote favorably on this bill. It will be enforced unfairly and most likely be used as a tool to fill prisons with those who committed victimless-crimes; we can only guess at what groups of people will be targeted by this unfair law. It is unenforceable due to the inherent nature of homemade firearms, to the extent that banning Home Depot and 3D printers would be necessary. It puts undue costs on gunowners and hobbyists who are clearly well within existing law, without ill-intent, simply exercising rights and enjoying the sport.

For these reasons I urge you to vote unfavorably on House Bill 425.

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