



## HOUSE BILL 0704

### Firearms-Tracking Technology

RICH GIBSON, HOWARD COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

**POSITION: FAVORABLE FOR HB 0704**

March 6, 2023

My name is Rich Gibson, I am the State's Attorney for Howard County, Maryland, I am writing today to request a favorable report for House Bill 0704.

We have a gun violence problem in our nation and our state. Too many lives are lost, and we must do all that we can to keep firearms out of the hands of people who should not possess them. House Bill 0704 seeks to reduce gun violence by putting in place a method to rapidly track and reacquire lost or stolen firearms before they are used in a crime. Utilizing this proven technology of radio frequency identification to locate stolen firearms from bulk purchases goes a long way in helping law enforcement to learn the origin of or trace a particular firearm to develop investigative leads.

In 2019, we had a case in Howard County where defendants (a group consisting of both adults and juveniles) were engaged in a series of brazen smash and grab burglaries on gun stores. In each of the cases, the defendants stole a car which they used to drive through the front wall of a gun store stealing eighteen (18) guns from a store in Howard County. The same perpetrators carried out the same plan in Montgomery County, where they were able to steal twenty-seven (27) guns. Even after they were apprehended and brought to justice, twenty-four (24) of the weapons stolen were never recovered. If this bill was enacted when these crimes occurred, those twenty-four (24) guns would have been rapidly recovered, as opposed to their current status of unknown whereabouts, most likely in the wrong hands, being used to commit acts of violence.

For these reasons, **I respectfully request a favorable report for House Bill 0704.**

