



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**LETTER OF SUPPORT**  
**HB 807 – Firearm Technology Tracking**

Greetings Chair Luke Clippinger, Vice-Chair David Moon, and members of the Judiciary Committee:

HB 704 - Firearm Tracking Technology is simply an inventory management bill which seeks to do one thing – enable owners of bulk gun inventory to quickly recover stolen or loss merchandise before these guns are used in a crime.

Every year, hundreds of thousands of guns are lost or stolen in the U.S. at a rate of one gun stolen from an individual owner every two minutes. According to the FBI, during a six-year period from 2012 to 2017, more than \$829 million worth of guns were reported stolen from individuals nationwide which results in 1.8 million guns diverted to the illegal gun market.

Studies indicate that handguns sold in multiple sales (bulk sales) are approximately 64% more likely to be used in crime than handguns sold individually. Despite Maryland’s strict gun laws, including recent efforts to require licensed firearm dealers to implement stronger security measures to protect their inventory, guns are more often stolen from gun retailers than individual gun owners in Maryland.

A study of guns recovered from crimes in Baltimore City found that guns purchased in multiple sales were significantly more likely than guns purchased in single sales to be retrieved from a possessor who was not the original purchaser. Therefore, HB 704 uses a proven technology, radio frequency identification (RFID) to locate stolen firearms from bulk purchases before they are used in homicides and other violent crimes in our communities.

RFID technology has been around since World War II and grew in popularity in the 1990s, after the first Gulf War, as a means of easily recording firearm serial numbers by barcodes and tracking vast containers of shipped firearms. The use of

RFID tags for firearm management is used in the U.S. military, other government armories, and law enforcement.

The provisions outlined in HB 704 do not violate any federal or state laws. Federal law requires licensed firearms dealers to report the loss or theft of any firearm from the dealer's inventory to the US Attorney General or local law enforcement within 48 hours of discovering the loss or theft. Maryland law, which applies to handguns and assault weapons, requires reporting to local law enforcement within 72 hours of discovering the loss or theft of certain firearms. This bill will enable law enforcement to quickly locate these lost or stolen firearms.

Furthermore, this bill does not create a gun registry. The Firearm Owners Protection Act (FOPA) of 1986 prohibits the establishment of a national gun registry by federal law enforcement which makes it illegal for the national government or any state to keep any sort of database or registry that ties firearms directly to their owner. FOPA does not prohibit manufacturers from registering the serial number of a firearm along with the sensor ID. It is the sensor ID that will be used to track the location of a lost or stolen gun, not the gun owner.

HB 704 will deter gun trafficking and straw purchasing of firearms. This bill is a much-needed tool to help law enforcement recover and return lost or stolen guns to their rightful owners. Therefore, saving gun retailers hundreds of dollars in lost inventory and quickly locating stolen guns before use in homicides and violent crimes. I ask your favorable recommendation to pass this important public safety bill to deter criminals from stealing firearms which are used to commit crimes in our communities.

## HB 807 – Firearm Technology FAQs

### *1. Why is this bill needed?*

Firearm loss and theft are major issues in the U.S. Every year, hundreds of thousands of guns are lost or stolen in the U.S. at a rate of one gun stolen from an individual owner every two minutes. According to the FBI, during a six-year period from 2012 to 2017, more than \$829 million worth of guns were reported stolen from individuals nationwide which resulted in 1.8 million guns diverted to the illegal gun market.

### *2. Who wants this bill?*

Individuals, organizations, and entities that own large quantities of gun inventory want a method to quickly recover their stolen or lost merchandise, especially before these guns are used in a crime. This includes law enforcement agencies, federally firearm licensed (FFL) dealers and pawn brokers, owners of shooting ranges, and other persons engaged in the business of selling, training, renting, or transferring regulated firearms for either wholesale or retail.

### *3. Does firearm tracking technology exist?*

Yes, radio frequency identification (RFID) has been around since World War II to manage the inventory of military firearms. It grew in popularity in the 1990s, after the first Gulf War, as a means of easily recording firearm serial numbers by barcodes and tracking vast containers of shipped firearms.

### *4. Why was the gun industry targeted to use this technology?*

RFID technology is commonly used by many industries to manage inventory or other important assets. RFID technology is used by clothing retailers, car industry, healthcare, manufacturing, construction, and the military. View more about the use of RFID technology -

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mwFJaAjlWBzhLKjAnHDtrJfdj1wH\\_ZIH/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mwFJaAjlWBzhLKjAnHDtrJfdj1wH_ZIH/view?usp=sharing).

### *5. Does this bill infringe on my Second Amendment Rights?*

No, this bill does not change current federal or state laws regarding firearm ownership, usage, selling, or transfer. This bill will not prohibit, limit, or deny these rights for any individual.

### *6. Will this bill create a gun registry?*

No, per the Firearm Owners Protection Act (FOPA) of 1986 it is unlawful to establish a national gun registry by federal law enforcement and it is illegal for the national government or any state to keep any sort of database or registry that ties firearms directly to their owner. With RFID technology, it is the serial number and associated sensor ID that is registered. In the case of a lost or stolen firearm, it is the sensor ID that will be used to find the location of the gun.

*7. Will this bill make my firearm purchases more costly?*

There is a minor cost. A standard Bluetooth-based or ultra-wideband active RFID system is proposed due to its ability to connect to various access point readers and transfer sensor ID data to a server or cloud. Active RFID tags are typically about \$10 per tag.

*8. Will this prevent individuals from making bulk gun purchases?*

No, this bill does not change current law about the quantity of firearms purchased by individuals, organizations, or any entity lawfully able to purchase firearms. No individual making firearm purchases for personal use will be impacted by this legislation. This bill only impacts gun manufacturers and individuals in the business of selling, training, renting, or transferring regulated firearms for either wholesale or retail.

*9. Will I be forced to put tracking technology on my personal firearm inventory?*

No, individual, business, or entity will be required to put RFID tracking sensors on current firearm inventory. This bill directs firearm manufacturers to embed RFID sensors in future firearm inventory purchased by firearm wholesalers, retailers, and persons engaged in the business of selling, training, renting, or transferring regulated firearms.

*10. Will the government take my firearms that do not have tracking technology?*

No, the government will not take individuals firearms with or without tracking sensors. It is impossible for the government to know the owner of firearms with or without embedded tracking sensors (this would be a violation of the Firearm Owners Protection Act). Furthermore, the government cannot confiscate firearms from lawful owners (this would be a violation of the Second Amendment). No law-abiding gun owner is negatively impacted by this legislation.





# **HB 704 –** Firearm Tracking Technology

# HB 704 – FIREARM TRACKING TECHNOLOGY

## PROBLEM AND PURPOSE

### Problem

Per the FBI, during a 6-year period more than \$829 million worth of guns were reported stolen which resulted in 1.8 million guns diverted to the illegal gun market

Studies indicate that handguns sold in multiple sales (bulk sales) are approximately 64% more likely to be used in crime than handguns sold individually

A study of guns recovered from crimes in Baltimore City found these guns were purchased in multiple sales (bulk sales) and were stolen from the original owner

### Purpose

Use RFID technology for better inventory management and control of firearms

Aid law enforcement with locating reported lost or stolen firearms

# ABOUT RFID TECHNOLOGY

Radio frequency identification (RFID) has been around since World War II

RFID tags are used by the U.S. military, other government armories, and law enforcement for firearm inventory management

RFID technology is used by firearm wholesalers, distributors and retailers to better handle their inventory acquisition, transfer, and disposition chain of custody recordkeeping requirements

RFID tags are used by many industries to manage and control their assets

## Which industries use RFID-based asset tracking systems?



Transportation



Healthcare



Manufacturing



Retail



Logistics



Construction





# WAYS RFID TECHNOLOGY SUPPORTS INVENTORY MANAGEMENT

**HB 704** SUPPORTS **INVENTORY  
MANAGEMENT** AND **RECOVERY**  
FOR MARYLAND'S:

142 LAW ENFORCEMENT  
AGENCIES

556 FEDERALLY FIREARM LICENSED  
(FFL) DEALERS AND PAWN  
BROKERS

56 SHOOTING RANGES

OTHER PERSONS ENGAGED IN THE  
BUSINESS OF SELLING, RENTING, OR  
TRANSFERRING REGULATED  
FIREARMS FOR EITHER WHOLESALE  
OR RETAIL



# Asset tracking benefits using RFID

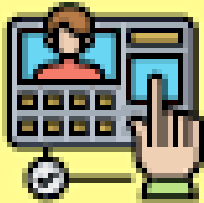


## Reduced labor costs

Reduce labor costs with automatic inventory check in/ check out, counting and shipment verification

## Real-time information

Get real-time visibility into assets physical locations and health at all times

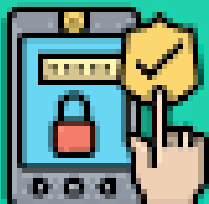


## Faster asset scanning

RFID tags don't require a line of sight which means that you can scan multiple items at once and make your tracking processes faster

## Improved Security

With complete control over assets check-in and check-out, you can ensure that there is no asset theft or loss



**FAVORABLE RECOMMENDATION**  
**HB 704 - FIREARM TRACKING**  
**TECHNOLOGY**