



TESTIMONY FOR HB0810 Criminal Law - Weapon Crimes - Switch/Auto-Sear

Bill Sponsors: Speaker Jones

Committee: Judiciary

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Aileen Alex, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0810 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of individuals and grassroots groups with members in every district in the state with well over 30,000 members.

Maryland gun laws need to be strengthened. This bill addresses insidious devices that can transform most guns into the equivalent of machine guns.

Federal prosecutions involving automatic conversion devices have spiked in recent years. From 2017 to 2021, the number of cases jumped from 10 to 83, with over 260 cases filed in the last five years. These devices have been used in robberies, assaults, and murders.

HB0810 authorizes law enforcement units to seize and dispose of switch/auto-sears as contraband. Individuals are prohibited from manufacturing, possessing, selling, offering to sell, transferring, purchasing, or receiving a switch/auto-sear. Anyone found in violation is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 3 years or a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or both. Penalties are more severe for those using these devices in commission of a crime.

Our members believe firmly in common sense gun legislation, as do most gun owners and the majority of residents in Maryland. We have a lot of solid, common-sense laws on the books, but like many states, we continue to see gun-related crimes and deaths. This legislation contributes to public safety by addressing the possession and misuse of these sinister devices.

Our members think this legislation is long overdue and should be passed as quickly as possible. We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.