



To: Members of The House Judiciary Committee
From: Doyle Niemann, Chair, Legislative Committee, Criminal Law and Practice Section,
Maryland State Bar Association
Date: February 9, 2024
Subject: **HB810 - Weapon Crimes - Switch/Auto-Sear**
Position: **SUPPORT**

The Legislative Committee of the Criminal Law & Practice Section of the Maryland State Bar Association (MSBA) **Supports HB810 - Weapon Crimes - Switch/Auto-Sear.**

This bill adds devices known as switches or auto sears to the list of dangerous firearm-related items prohibited in the state.

Switches and auto sear devices are designed to convert firearms from semiautomatic mode to automatic mode, meaning multiple rounds can be fired with a single pull of a trigger. It is the latest technology designed to get around existing bans on machine guns and other automatic weapons. These are dangerous devices that are, unfortunately, readily available to purchase or to manufacture. They serve no realistic need for personal or home protection, hunting or other uses, but they have the potential to significantly increase the destructive power of a wide range of weapons. Banning their possession, transfer, manufacture and sale is an important public safety step.

For the reasons stated, we **Support HB810.**

If you have questions about the position of the Criminal Law and Practice Section's Legislative Committee, please feel free to address them to me at 240-606-1298 or at doyleniemann@gmail.com.

Should you have other questions, please contact The MSBA's Legislative Office at (410) 387-5606..

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