

Institute for Legislative Action

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NRA

February 3, 2025

Chair Clippinger and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

My name is John Weber, and I represent the National Rifle Association and our members in Maryland. The NRA is opposed to HB 1287.

This legislation seeks to ban pistols that can be converted to fully automatic firearms. While we share the goal of reducing crime, this legislation is deeply flawed and overbroad.

The devices commonly known as "auto switches" or "Glock switches," which illegally convert semi-automatic firearms into fully automatic ones, are already prohibited under both federal law and Maryland state law. The NRA supports the enforcement of these existing laws against criminals who use or illegally possess such devices. However, this bill takes a different approach by targeting handguns. Specifically, pistols that *could potentially* be modified with an illegal device. This is an important distinction.

Virtually every semi-automatic pistol can, in theory, be modified with an illegal auto switch. These devices, often 3D-printed or smuggled from places like China, are small, inexpensive, and designed to exploit the basic mechanics of semi-automatic firearms. By banning handguns that can be converted this bill risks outlawing an entire category of firearms. This is not a targeted solution; it's a sweeping approach that could strip Marylanders of their constitutional rights to own some of the most common and reliable firearms available.

The language in this bill is vague and could criminalize possession of standard semi-automatic pistols based solely on their hypothetical vulnerability to illegal modification. This means that a Maryland hunter, a sport shooter, or a single mother who keeps a pistol for self-defense could now be in possession of contraband because someone, somewhere, could illegally alter it. Meanwhile, the real culprits face no additional deterrence from this law, as their actions are already felonies.

Considering the devices at issue are already illegal we should focus on enforcing the laws we have. Target the traffickers of these illegal devices. Crack down on the criminals who use them. Don't punish law-abiding Marylanders by banning tools they rely on for lawful purposes.

We respectfully urge an unfavorable report.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

John Weber

NRA State Director

