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HB 1287

March 5, 2025

TO: Members of the House Judiciary Committee

FROM: Nina Themelis, Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations

RE: House Bill 1287 - Criminal Law - Firearm Crimes - Convertible Pistols

POSITION: Support

Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Bartlett, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 1287.

HB 1287 would prohibit the manufacture, sale or use of any semi-automatic handgun that can be easily converted into a fully automatic machine gun using an automatic sear. Auto sears, often in the form of Glock switches, can convert basic firearms into illegal automatic machine guns that fire as fast as military-grade weapons. These attachments, which are easy to manufacture or simply 3D print,¹ alter the trigger mechanisms of semi-automatic pistols to enable the continuous firing of up to 1,200 rounds per minute.²

Those carrying out criminal activity in our communities are increasingly using switches on easily modifiable weapons. The number of switches recovered by the Baltimore Police Department has increased exponentially in recent years, and modified Glocks have been recovered in connection with offenses ranging from carjackings and narcotics distribution to violent crimes. Nationally, between 2017 and 2021, the ATF recovered 5,454 machine gun conversion devices, including Glock switches - a 570% increase from the preceding five years.³

We need sensible gun legislation to protect Baltimoreans and Marylanders from the growing safety threat posed by convertible pistols. For these reasons, the BCA respectfully requests a **favorable** report on HB 1287.

¹ Everytown Research & Policy <https://everytownresearch.org/rankings/law/auto-sears-glock-switches-prohibited/#:~:text=Auto%20sears%2C%20often%20in%20the,to%201%2C200%20rounds%20per%20minute>

² U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Texas, "Fort Worth Manufacturer Charged in Glock Switch Case," press release, November 18, 2022, <https://www.atf.gov/news/press-releases/fort-worth-manufacturer-charged-glock-switch-case>

³ US Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, "National Firearms Commerce and Trafficking Assessment (NFCTA): Crime Guns – Volume Two: PART VII: Recommendations and Future Enhancements," January 2023, <https://www.atf.gov/firearms/docs/report/nfcta-volume-ii-part-vii-recommendations/download>