



Favorable with Amendments Testimony for  
**Criminal Law - Firearms - Convertible Pistols**  
HB 1287

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## **Marylanders to Prevent Gun Violence (MPGV) Testimony in Support of House Bill 1287**

Marylanders to Prevent Gun Violence (MPGV) is a statewide organization dedicated to reducing gun deaths and injuries in Maryland. We urge the committee to issue a **Favorable** report on House Bill 1287, which would prohibit the sale of any firearm that can be easily converted into an automatic weapon through the attachment of a “switch.”

The rise in the use of these conversion devices—often called “Glock switches” or “auto sears”—poses a significant and immediate threat to public safety. These small and inexpensive devices can turn a legal semi-automatic firearm into a fully automatic weapon, capable of firing dozens of rounds in seconds. Law enforcement agencies across the country, including here in Maryland, are seeing a dramatic increase in crimes involving these illegally modified weapons. Taking proactive steps to prevent firearms that are easily convertible to automatic fire from entering the market is both a necessary and responsible action to protect Marylanders.

Importantly, the firearm industry has **known for decades** that their firearms are being modified to create illegal weapons, yet they have failed to take meaningful steps to address the engineering vulnerabilities that allow these modifications. Instead of designing firearms that resist these dangerous alterations, manufacturers continue to produce and sell weapons that can be easily converted—placing profit over public safety. This legislation holds the industry accountable for addressing what they have thus far refused to fix. Either fix the issue or lose the market.

### **Recommended Amendments: Strengthening the Handgun Roster Board’s Role**

However, in addressing this urgent threat, **it is also critical that Maryland legislators ensure our Handgun Roster Board has the ability and duty to review and update the Handgun Roster in response to changes in the law and emerging firearm**

**technology.** Currently, the Board plays a key role in determining which handguns may be sold in the state, but without a clear mechanism to remove previously approved firearms that are later determined to be either out of step with Maryland laws and/or the subject of new laws, we risk leaving dangerous loopholes in place.

Additionally, this is only **one of many necessary corrections** to the Handgun Roster Board's processes. The Roster has long needed reforms to ensure it effectively keeps dangerous weapons off the market. Maryland must take a more proactive approach in evaluating which firearms should remain on the approved list, particularly in light of advances in firearm modification techniques. HB 1287 is a step in the right direction, but it must be part of a broader effort to **modernize and strengthen the Board's role in preventing gun violence.**

By passing HB 1287 and strengthening the Handgun Roster Board's ability to adapt to new threats, Maryland can continue to lead in common-sense gun violence prevention and ensure that our laws remain effective in keeping our communities safe.

**With the suggested modifications MPGV urges the Committee to issue a favorable report on this legislation.**