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Legislative District 22
Prince George's County

Judiciary Committee

Chair, Public Safety Subcommittee

Chair, Prince George's
County House Delegation



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 11, 2026

The Honorable J. Sandy Bartlett
Chair of the House Judiciary Committee
100 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

House Bill 577

Good afternoon, Chair Bartlett, Vice-Chair Davis, and the members of the House Judiciary Committee. I am Delegate Nicole Williams, and I will be testifying in favor of House Bill 577, also known as **Criminal Law - Firearm Crimes - Machine Gun Convertible Pistols**. This legislation would prohibit a person from manufacturing, selling, offering for sale, purchasing, receiving, or transferring a certain convertible pistol in Maryland, which is any semi-automatic pistol that can be converted into a machine gun solely by attaching a switch that is a type of auto-sear. Importantly, this legislation would not require current gun owners to modify or get rid of convertible pistols that they already own, and would also not bar future sales to law enforcement officers or agencies or to members of the military acting within the scope of their official business.

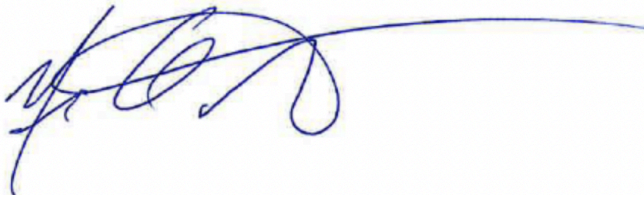
Certain gun manufacturers uniquely design their pistols in a way that makes them easy for users to convert into illegal machine guns using just a screwdriver and a small piece of plastic known as a [switch](#). While unlawful under both federal and state law, the switch can easily be illegally purchased or 3D-printed. This creates an extremely accessible “DIY” weapon of mass destruction when placed in the wrong hands.

Shootings involving automatic weapons have become increasingly prevalent across the State of Maryland. The tragic mass shooting on Morgan State University’s campus in October 2023 that injured five people involved the use of a gun with a switch. In addition to shootings, these DIY machine guns have been recovered from crime scenes in [Clarksburg](#), [Frederick](#), [Towson](#), [Parkville](#), and [Baltimore](#). Each of these stories is the result of inaction from gun manufacturers who have failed to correct their designs and prevent these modifications.

The majority of gun manufacturers use weapon designs that are not susceptible to easy conversion. House Bill 577 takes a major step in keeping our state safe by addressing those manufacturers who continue to offer machine gun convertible pistols on the civilian retail market. They have chosen to put profits over people, over human lives. We must do our part in protecting Maryland communities from the potential violence of these weapons.

For these reasons, I urge this committee to give a favorable report on House Bill 577.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nicole Williams', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Delegate Nicole A. Williams, Esq.