

Please Find **UNFAVORABLE HOUSE BILL 577**  
Criminal Law – Firearm Crimes – Machine Gun Convertible Pistols

HB577 is unnecessary and overly broad in that it seeks to criminalize Glock style handguns based on the claim that they can be converted into machine guns, despite the fact that **manufacturing or possessing a machine gun is already illegal under federal law**. Under longstanding federal statutes, conversion devices are themselves classified as machine guns, and their possession carries severe felony penalties. So Maryland seeks to make such devices more "illegaler?"

This bill does not address **criminal behavior**—it instead **targets lawful firearm ownership** by banning pistols based on completely hypothetical misuse rather than actual function. Will this committee start banning cars capable of being modified to exceed the speed limit? The firearms affected by HB577 are not machine guns; they fire one round per trigger pull and are widely owned by many Marylanders for competitive and self-defense purposes. (There are estimates that perhaps as much as 65% of the handgun market is this style of firearm. [1])

Equally troubling, HB577 delegates broad authority to the Maryland State Police to determine which pistols are prohibited through regulation. This allows an executive agency to effectively ban firearms without legislative debate and creates a pathway for future expansion well beyond the bill's stated intent.

HB577 duplicates federal law, expands government power unnecessarily, and risks turning ordinary Marylanders, in the near future, into criminals for owning some of the most common firearm in existence. For these reasons, I respectfully urge an **unfavorable report**.

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[1] <https://www.libertysafe.com/blogs/the-vault/complete-guide-9mm-glocks>