



**BILL NO:** House Bill 577  
**TITLE:** Criminal Law - Firearm Crimes - Machine Gun Convertible Pistols  
**COMMITTEE:** Judiciary  
**HEARING DATE:** February 11, 2026  
**POSITION:** FAVORABLE

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The Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV) is the state domestic violence coalition that works to lead diverse community partners toward the common purpose of reducing the occurrence and impact of intimate partner violence. **MNADV urges the House Judicial Proceedings Committee to issue a favorable report on HB 577.**

While it is a public safety bill rather than a direct "survivor-centric" service bill, HB 577's provisions are highly significant for domestic violence survivors due to the specific nature of firearm lethality in domestic disputes. The bill targets a rising trend in violent crime: the use of "Glock switches" or other conversion devices.

House Bill 577 bans the manufacture, sale, possession, and transfer of "machine gun convertible pistols"—semiautomatic handguns modified to fire automatically with a single trigger pull. It establishes strict criminal penalties for those found in possession of these "switches" or modified firearms, treating them as prohibited machine guns under Maryland law.

HB 577 also modernizes the state's definition of "rapid-fire activators" to include 3D-printed devices and other newer technologies used to bypass standard firearm safety mechanisms. Many conversion switches are 3D-printed or sold untraceably. Survivors are often at higher risk when abusers who are already legally prohibited from owning firearms (due to prior protective orders or convictions) acquire these untraceable, highly lethal modifications.

MNADV supports legislation like HB 577 because of the direct link between high-capacity, rapid-fire weaponry and the escalation of domestic lethality. Research consistently shows that the presence of a firearm in a domestic violence situation **increases the risk of homicide by 500%**. By removing "machine gun" capabilities from handguns, the bill aims to prevent a split-second escalation from becoming a mass-casualty event or an inescapable lethal encounter.

The bill gives Maryland law enforcement clearer authority to intervene and remove these specific high-risk weapons during investigations or when serving protective orders.

For the above stated reasons, the **Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence urges a favorable report on HB 577.**

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