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**HB577**

February 11, 2026

**TO:** Members of the Judiciary Committee

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

**RE:** **HB 577 - Criminal Law - Firearm Crimes - Machine Gun Convertible Pistols**

**POSITION: FAVORABLE**

Chair Bartlett, Vice Chair Davis, and members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 577. This legislation requires all pistols sold in Maryland to be designed in a way that ensures they cannot be quickly and easily turned into machine guns. The Baltimore Police Department confiscated 47 modified guns in 2025 and 4 so far already this year.

The danger posed by a firearm modified in this manner is difficult to overstate. Once the trigger is depressed on such a weapon, the firing sequence cannot be terminated. The firearm will continue to fire, sometimes at a rate of up to 1,200 rounds per minute, until there is no more ammunition. The Baltimore Police Department has identified the use of firearms modified with Glock switches by drug trafficking organizations as a significant and ongoing public safety threat in Baltimore. These illegally modified weapons are used to intimidate communities and facilitate acts of serious violence.

In April 2025, the Baltimore Police Department, in coordination with the Drug Enforcement Administration, dismantled a major drug trafficking organization operating in the Curtis Bay area. As a result of this investigation, nine handguns were seized, including three Glock pistols that had been illegally modified with Glock switches, converting the firearms from semi-automatic handguns into fully automatic machine guns. Absent this coordinated enforcement action, these weapons posed a substantial risk of causing a mass-shooting incident within seconds.

In October 2023, Baltimore Police responded to a mass-shooting incident at Morgan State University during a Homecoming event. Five individuals sustained non-fatal gunshot wounds. The firearm used by a 17-year-old suspect in the incident had been modified with a Glock switch. The rate of fire resulted in shattered windows in a student residence hall, demonstrating the heightened lethality and indiscriminate danger posed by these illegally modified weapons and the significant potential for additional injuries or loss of life.

These instances demonstrate the importance of this legislation. The Baltimore City Administration requests a **favorable** report for HB 577.