

Opposition to HB 577 – Criminal Law – Firearm Crimes – Machine Gun Convertible

I oppose HB 577, Criminal Law – Firearm Crimes – Machine Gun Convertible.

I believe that many bills are being passed that have little effect on reducing gun crimes committed by irresponsible individuals. Why penalize responsible gun owners who obtain training and use their firearms lawfully and safely?

HB 577 appears to advance the agenda of activists seeking to ban all firearms and shows a disregard for our constitutional rights. This legislation is overly broad, infringes on the rights of law-abiding gun owners, and punishes manufacturers rather than the criminals who use illegal and unauthorized devices.

My concerns regarding the bill include:

- **Infringement on Legal Gun Ownership:** Critics, including groups such as Maryland Shall Issue, argue that the bill restricts access to common, reliable, and legally owned handguns, specifically mentioning Glocks, under the guise of safety.
- **Targeting the Wrong Actors:** Opponents contend that the legislation unfairly focuses on manufacturers and law-abiding consumers, while the real issue lies with criminals who use illegally acquired third-party “switches” to modify firearms.
- **“Feel-Good” Legislation:** Some critics argue the bill is largely symbolic and unlikely to meaningfully improve public safety.
- **Overly Broad Definition:** Concerns have been raised that the bill’s language is too expansive and could result in banning a wide range of firearms.
- **Impact on Law Enforcement and Commerce:** Similar past proposals, such as HB 1287, raised concerns that such bans could prevent law enforcement agencies from purchasing necessary duty weapons and hinder lawful commerce for firearms dealers.

For these reasons, I respectfully request an **UNFAVORABLE** report on HB 577.

Thank you for considering my views.

Sincerely,

Brigitta Mullican

Rockville, MD 20851 LD-17