

HB0577 Criminal Law - Firearm Crimes - Machine Gun Convertible Pistol

Position - Favorable

February 9, 2026

To the Chair and Honorable Members of the House Judiciary Committee

My name is Lesley Frost and I am the Chair of National Council of Jewish Women, Maryland State Policy Advocacy Committee (NCJW MD SPA) and I am writing on behalf of our 600 advocates across the state in support of HB0577 Criminal Law - Firearm Crimes - Machine Gun Convertible Pistol.

According to the Pew Research Center, “ in 2023, the most recent year for which the FBI has published data, handguns were involved in 53% of the 13,529 U.S. gun murders and non-negligent manslaughters for which data is available.” In addition to this fact there is an alarming prevalence of gun conversion devices that can turn ordinary hand guns into automatic weapons, making HB0577 legislation an essential tool in the work to reduce gun violence.

HB0577 would prohibit the sale or manufacture of firearms that can be converted into automatic weapons through the use of a “pistol converter” a device about the size of a Lego, that is also commonly referred to as a Glock switch, for the make of handgun that is most easily converted. The converter enables the pistol to fire at a rate of 1,200 rounds per minute, essentially turning it into an automatic weapon.

By prohibiting the sale or manufacture of firearms that can be converted into automatic weapons this legislation targets industry designs that make machine-gun conversion possible in the first place. It puts the onus on the manufacturers who profit from guns that they know can be readily turned into automatic weapons by the addition of a converter.

The resolutions of our organization, NCJW empower us to support..” Expansion and enforcement of laws, policies, and programs that regulate firearms and ammunition, ban assault and other military-style weapons and accessories, and prevent gun violence and promote gun safety.”

We therefore urge you to continue to make our communities safer from gun violence by reporting favorable on HB0577.

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