



TESTIMONY FOR HB0577
Criminal Law – Firearm Crimes – Machine Gun Convertible Pistols

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Williams
Committee: Senate Judiciary
Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition
Person Submitting: Aileen Alex, Cochair
Position: FAVORABLE

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I am submitting this testimony in support of HB0577 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. We are an association of unpaid citizen advocates—individuals and grassroots groups in every district across the state—representing and supporting more than 30,000 Marylanders.

HB0577 addresses a growing public safety threat by prohibiting the manufacture, sale, purchase, or transfer of pistols that can be converted into machine guns. These conversion-ready weapons have become increasingly common, and they pose serious risks to communities and to the law enforcement officers who respond to emergencies every day. Closing this loophole is an important and overdue step toward reducing gun violence in Maryland.

I also want to speak personally. As a new grandmother, I feel the stakes of our public safety decisions more sharply than ever. I don't want my grandchild to grow up in a Maryland where fully automatic fire can be caused by a small, easily modified pistol on a neighborhood street or school. HB0577 is a practical, targeted measure that helps keep Marylanders safe while maintaining clear, enforceable standards. It is exactly the kind of thoughtful policy that protects families without burdening responsible gun owners.

This bill aligns directly with the Maryland Legislative Coalition's mission to support legislation that strengthens public safety, reduces harm, and improves the lives of Marylanders. Preventing the spread of machine-gun-convertible pistols is a commonsense step that supports safer communities and a more secure future for our children and grandchildren. We respectfully urge a **FAVORABLE** report on HB0577.