



Senate Bill 0334
Criminal Law - Firearm Crimes - Machine Gun Convertible Pistols
UNFAVORABLE

Existing law already bans any “rapid fire activator” type device, including a removable manual or power–driven activating device, constructed so that, when installed in or attached to a firearm, the rate at which the trigger is activated increases, or the rate of fire increases. “Rapid fire activators” include a bump stock, trigger crank, hellfire trigger, binary trigger system, burst trigger system, switch/auto–sear, or a copy or a similar device, regardless of the producer or manufacturer.

The so-called “Pistol Converter” AKA “Glock switch” is already banned under Federal law and existing Maryland Criminal Law§4-301 (m) and (n).

A person who violates this subtitle is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 3 years or a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or both.

A person who uses a “rapid fire activator,” in the commission of a felony or a crime of violence as defined in § 5–101 of the Public Safety Article is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction, in addition to any other sentence imposed for the felony or crime of violence, shall for a first violation be sentenced to imprisonment for not less than 5 years and not exceeding 20 years. For each subsequent violation, the person shall be sentenced to imprisonment for not less than 10 years and not exceeding 20 years.

Should Senate Bill 334 become law, most Glock models (e.g., 17, 19, 21, 22, 23, 31, 32) which utilize a cruciform trigger bar design as well as Glock-style clones such as the Ruger RXM which utilize a similar cruciform bar concept will be rendered valueless to their lawful owners. Criminals will not be impacted by the new law because they do not acquire firearms through the legal market. Senate Bill 334 will raise the black market value of Glock style pistols and 3D printed pistols which are already illegal in Maryland.

When the Maryland General Assembly passes legislation which limits the civil and Constitutional Rights of citizens due to the actions of the criminals, it blurs the line as to which constituency it is truly serving.

This proposed ban on a legal product, currently owned by tens of thousands of law-abiding citizens, simply because it may be used by criminals, presents some interesting parallels.

For example:

- Even though voting machine errors are uncommon considering the number of voting machines, we should consider banning voting machines.
- Most citizens who wear hoodies are law-abiding, are we to ban these popular garments simply because so many crimes are committed by criminals who often use these hooded garments to conceal their identity.
- Speeding vehicles and impaired drivers are a nationwide problem. Should we require speed limiting devices and DUI limiting devices on all vehicles for all Maryland citizens?

While the foregoing scenarios are for illustrative purposes only, they do demonstrate the peculiar attraction of legislation which mistakenly shifts the focus of our laws to inanimate objects rather than the actions of those who violate the law.

It is worth noting that there are exemptions for:

- Certain law enforcement agencies, including United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)
- Transfer to law enforcement officers upon retirement
- Employees of armored car companies

Glock pistols and those of similar design are among the most common handguns in Maryland. Persecuting the law-abiding in response to the actions of criminals is anathema to the Legislature's obligation to ensure equal justice under the law.

Human ingenuity gives us the ability to adapt machines to perform functions not envisioned by the original designers. Firearms are simply machines. Many firearms can be modified to allow fully automatic fire using only a simple flat file. GI's in World War 2 did such modifications to convert the classic M1 Garand rifle from semi-automatic to fully automatic.

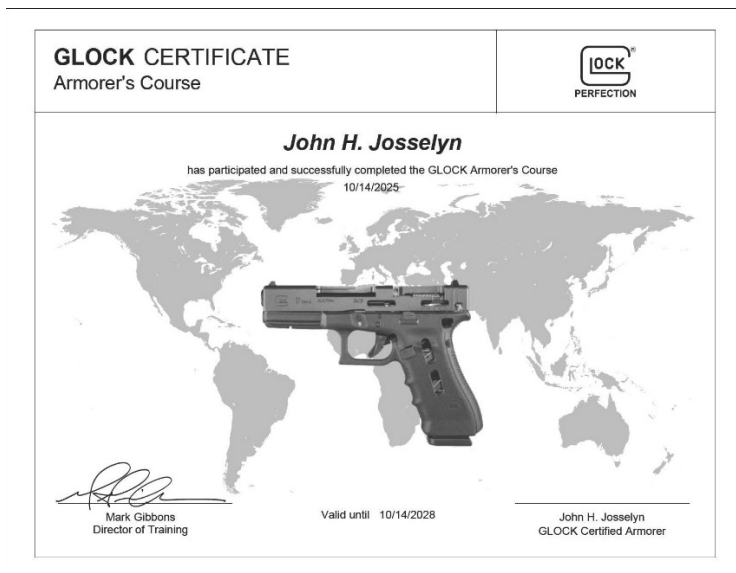
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A very common .22 caliber semi-automatic rifle (estimated 11 million in existence) can be modified to fully automatic fire with the same flat file.

Such conversions are virtually unheard of, simply because unlike criminals, we as law-abiding citizens respect the rule of law. Does SB 334 signal the advent of a legislative witch hunt which will extend to every semi-automatic rifle, pistol and shotgun?

We strongly urge the Committee to trust our law-abiding citizens and return an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 334.

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Glock Cruciform Trigger Bar Assembly – Top View



Glock Cruciform Trigger Bar Assembly – Side View