

SB 334/HB 577: Criminal Law - Firearm Crimes - Machine Gun Convertible Pistols:
Please vote to **OPPOSE** this bill.

Dear Judiciary Committee:

I am writing as a concerned resident of Maryland to strongly oppose **SB 334/HB 577**.

The definition of “machine gun convertible pistol” will include many popular, law-abiding semiautomatic handguns that millions of Americans — including Marylanders — lawfully own and use for self-defense, target shooting, and sporting purposes. This bill effectively punishes firearm designs rather than the criminal misuse of illegal conversion devices. It shifts responsibility from criminals to manufacturers and lawful owners.

My main concerns with this bill include:

- **Burden on law-abiding citizens:** Responsible gun owners who have done nothing wrong could face criminal penalties (up to 3 years in prison and/or a \$5,000 fine) for possessing or transferring commonly owned pistols that meet the broad definition.
- **Ineffective at stopping crime:** Criminals already obtain illegal machine guns and conversion devices through the black market. This law will not disarm criminals but will restrict the rights of compliant Maryland residents.
- **Vague and arbitrary enforcement:** Relying on the State Police to maintain a “prohibited list” creates uncertainty and opens the door to inconsistent application. Many modern striker-fired pistols could be affected.
- **Further erosion of Second Amendment rights:** Maryland already has some of the strictest gun laws in the nation. This bill adds another layer of restriction without addressing root causes of gun crime, such as repeat offenders, illegal trafficking, and failures in prosecution.

Maryland should focus enforcement efforts on actual criminals who illegally convert firearms or use machine guns, not on banning or burdening entire classes of otherwise legal semiautomatic pistols.

I respectfully urge you to **oppose SB 334/HB 577** and vote against its passage in the House.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my concerns regarding this important public safety legislation.

Sincerely,

Trudy Tibbals

