

Millie



Stop DIY Machine Guns (SB 334, Sen. Love / HB 577, Del. Williams)

DIY machine guns are a growing threat to public safety. Fully automatic machine guns are illegal under federal and state law, but certain types of pistols can easily be converted to DIY machine guns at home, even by people with little to no engineering skill, using just a screwdriver and a tiny piece of plastic or metal commonly known as a "[Glock switch](#)". This device is illegal to possess under federal law, and is now also prohibited by MD state law due to the passage of [HB 810 of 2024](#). However, Glock switches can easily be purchased illegally for as little as \$25 or 3D-printed at home, and can be trafficked easily because they are so small.

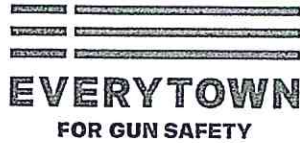
DIY Machine Guns are extremely dangerous and are spreading throughout Maryland. They can fire at a rate of [up to 20 rounds per second](#), allowing shooters to spray bullets with a single pull of the trigger. Their recoil also makes them hard to control and shoot accurately, endangering bystanders. Modified pistols equipped with switches have become a weapon of choice for criminals and have been recovered or used in crimes [across Maryland](#), including in [Clarksburg](#), [Frederick](#), [Towson](#), [Parkville](#), and [Baltimore](#), and the Oct. 2023 [mass shooting at Morgan State University](#) also involved a Glock switch.

Every firearm manufacturer should be taking steps to make sure their guns can't be easily converted into DIY machine guns — but that's not what's happening. The majority of gun manufacturers use designs that aren't susceptible to easy conversion. However, despite the explosion of a market for illegal pistol converters, and an uptick in crimes committed using fully automatic modified pistols, a small number of gun manufacturers, including Glock and others, continue to offer machinegun-convertible pistols on the civilian retail market.

State legislators must strengthen product safety standards for all handguns sold in Maryland, ensuring that no handgun sold to civilians can be easily converted to a DIY Machine gun. State law prohibits the devices used to convert pistols into machine guns, and should also address the pistols that are easily able to accept those devices.

SB 334 / HB 577 will protect Marylanders by requiring all pistols sold in the state to be designed in such a way that ensures they cannot quickly and easily be turned into machine guns.

- **The bill would not require current gun owners to modify or get rid of convertible pistols they already own.** It does not criminalize or impact individual gun owners who possess these guns. It would not require current owners of convertible pistols to modify or relinquish their guns or impact their ability to use and carry them, if licensed to do so.
- **The bill also would not bar future sales to law enforcement officers or agencies or to members of the military acting within the scope of their official business.**



Examples of Maryland recoveries of modified pistols and Glock switches:

- Authorities said the mass shooting in October 2023 that injured five people at **Morgan State University** involved a gun with a Glock switch.
- A **Clarksburg** man was found in April 2024 to be in possession of fentanyl and other drugs, along with a Glock equipped with a 30-round magazine and a Glock switch.
- **Charles County** patrol officers apprehended two men in October 2024 after a series of car thefts and break-ins led to a high-speed pursuit and the recovery of stolen vehicles. A Glock handgun equipped with a switch was recovered from the scene.
- In **Baltimore**, police recovered 65 modified Glocks in 2024, compared to 35 the previous year. Four Baltimore men were charged in 2024 with possessing three Glocks, a Diamondback Firearms AR-15, an untraceable AR-15 pistol, thousands of dollars, and eight machine gun conversion devices.
- In January 2024, A 17-year-old in **Severn** was found to be in possession of a loaded, modified Glock and 20 grams of crack cocaine packaged for distribution.

National stats and examples:

- Between 2019 and 2023, the ATF recorded 11,088 machine gun conversion devices (MCDs) being recovered, including Glock switches. In that period, MCD recoveries increased by 784%, with 5,816 recovered in 2023 alone.
- **Chicago** Police recovered more than 1,100 modified Glocks from 2021 through 2023. Federal law enforcement and local police also arrested 41 people involved in a firearms trafficking ring in August 2025, recovering 171 firearms and 64 machine gun conversion devices.
- In 2021, A **Houston** Police Department officer was killed and another was wounded by a man who used a handgun equipped with a switch.
- In 2022 in **Sacramento**, a handgun converted into a machine gun was used during a gun battle that killed six and injured twelve, in what has been called Sacramento's deadliest mass shooting.
- In **Dallas**, ATF's Field Office recovered 36 Glock switches in 2021 and 1,026 in 2022, a 2,750% year-to-year increase.
- A 69-year-old grandmother in **Columbus, Ohio**, was shot and killed with a modified handgun while walking into her daughter's house.
- In **Albuquerque, New Mexico**, a 19-year-old shot and killed a 52-year-old veteran in a movie theater with a handgun modified with a switch.