



Dannielle M. Glaros
Chair
Council District 3
(301) 952-3060

Together Strengthening Our Community

MAR 06 2018

The Hon. Jim Rosapepe, Chair
Prince George's County Senate Delegation
James Senate Office Building, Room 314
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

The Hon. Jay Walker, Chair
Prince George's County House Delegation
Lowe House Office Building, Room 207E
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

Re: **Prince George's County Council's Position on General Assembly Legislation**

Dear Senator Rosapepe & Delegate Walker:

It is my pleasure, on behalf of the Prince George's County Council, to transmit our position on pending proposed State legislation for the 2018 General Assembly Session. The Council met on March 6, 2018. The enclosed report reflects our position on General Assembly bills as they are currently drafted.

The Council appreciates the opportunity to work together with you and your colleagues to address issues important to our citizens and the operation of Prince George's County. Should you have any questions or need additional information please do not hesitate to contact me. For your convenience my office phone number is (301) 952-3060.

Thanks again, for favorable consideration of the Council's position.

Sincerely,

Dannielle M. Glaros
Chair

Enclosures

cc: Hon. Rushern L. Baker, III, Prince George's County Executive

RULES & GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE REPORT

The Prince George's County Council met on March 6, 2018 with the following Members present:

Council Member, Dannielle M. Glaros, Chair
Council Member, Todd M. Turner, Vice Chair
Council Member, Derrick L. Davis
Council Member Mel Franklin
Council Member Andrea C. Harrison
Council Member Mary A. Lehman
Council Member Obie Patterson
Council Member Deni Taveras

The Council voted for the following positions on these respective bills:

SB 1036/HB 1646 (Smith/Atterbeary)	Criminal Procedure – Firearms – Transfer – SUPPORT
SB 707/HB 888 (Ramirez/Moon)	Criminal Law – Firearm Crimes – Rapid Fire Trigger – SUPPORT



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700
County Council

POSITION STATEMENT

SB 1036/HB 1646
Senator Smith &
Delegate Atterbeary

Criminal Procedure - Firearms - Transfer

POSITION:

SUPPORT

SB 1036/HB 1646 – Criminal Procedure - Firearms - Transfer – requires the State’s Attorney, before trial or acceptance of a guilty plea or equivalent, to provide written notice to the defendant, the defendant’s counsel, and the court, when a defendant has been charged with a disqualifying crime that is potentially a domestically related crime, that it is illegal for a person who has been convicted of a disqualifying crime to possess or own a regulated firearm, rifle, or shotgun. If a person is convicted or pleads guilty to a domestically related crime, the court must: (1) inform the defendant that he/she is instantaneously prohibited from possessing a regulated firearm, rifle, or shotgun; (2) order the defendant to transfer all regulated firearms, rifles, and shotguns that he/she owns or possesses; and (3) order the defendant to provide proof of the transfer. The bill further directs that proof of firearm transference from the defendant to a law enforcement official, or a federally licensed firearms dealer be provided to the Court or State’s Attorney. If the Court finds probable cause to believe that the transference did not occur, an order for search and removal is also authorized.

There is no shortage of data and reports that suggest America has a gun problem.ⁱ Far too often, we learn of a deeply troubling domestic-related case involving a firearm that ends sadly and leaves legislators searching for ways to prevent a repeat of such tragedies. Studies suggest that states with high rates of household firearm ownership have significantly higher homicide victimization rates. This suggests that the association between firearm prevalence and homicide victimization is driven by guns.ⁱⁱ In addition, empirical evidence from these studies suggest that most women who are victims of gun-related homicides know their assailant, which suggests an interpersonal household dispute or some other type of domestic violence.ⁱⁱⁱ Thus, rates of homicide in areas with the correlated rates of gun availability support the need for regulations that control access to firearms. Unfortunately Prince George’s County has had its share of domestically related homicides and crimes.

The Prince George’s County Council strongly supports this legislation and its ability to ensure that residents of Maryland have additional protections from potential violence in domestic related crimes while maintaining due process. This is common-sense legislation that may help ensure that guns are not in the hands of domestic abusers and other criminals who have committed violent offenses. In sum, this legislation has the potential to prevent tragedies that occur in domestic “heat-of-the-moment” incidents, and save countless lives.

SB 1036/HB 1646 – Criminal Procedure - Firearms - Transfer – SUPPORT
Page 2

Therefore, the Prince George’s County Council strongly **SUPPORTS SB 1036/HB 1646** and respectfully requests your favorable consideration of its position.

Prepared by: Tia L. Holmes
Strategic Solutions Center, LLC
Jennifer A. Jenkins
On behalf of Prince George’s County Council



ⁱ See, e.g., German Lopez, *America’s Unique Gun Violence Problem, Explained in 17 Maps and Charts*, VOX (Feb. 15, 2018, 9:10 AM), <https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2017/10/2/16399418/us-gun-violence-statistics-maps-charts>.
ⁱⁱ Matthew Miller, David Hemenway, & Deborah Azrael, *State-Level Homicide Victimization Rates in the US in Relation to Survey Measures of Household Firearm Ownership, 2001–2003*, 64 SOC. SCI. & MED. 656 (2007).
ⁱⁱⁱ Andrew Anglemyer, Tara Horvath, & George Rutherford, *The Accessibility of Firearms and Risk for Suicide and Homicide Victimization Among Household Members: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis*, ANNALS OF INTERNAL MEDICINE (Jan. 21, 2014), <http://annals.org/aim/fullarticle/1814426/accessibility-firearms-risk-suicide-homicide-victimization-among-household-members-systematic>.



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700
County Council

POSITION STATEMENT

SB 707/HB 888
Senator Ramirez &
Delegate Moon

Criminal Law – Firearm Crimes – Rapid Fire Trigger
Activator

POSITION:

SUPPORT

SB 707/HB 888 – Criminal Law – Firearm Crimes – Rapid Fire Trigger Activator – prohibits a person from transporting a rapid-fire trigger activator into the State, or manufacturing, possessing, selling, offering to sell, transferring, purchasing, or receiving a rapid-fire trigger activator. Violators are subject to an existing misdemeanor penalty of a maximum of three years imprisonment and/or a fine of \$5,000. In addition, the bill prohibits a person from using a rapid fire trigger activator in the commission of a felony or a crime of violence. Violators are subject to the existing more stringent penalties that apply to the use of an assault weapon or a magazine with a capacity of more than 10 rounds of ammunition in the commission of a felony or crime of violence.

The purpose of rapid fire trigger activators, commonly known as bump stocks, is to allow a semi-automatic weapon to fire at nearly the rate of a machine gun. Just one pull of the trigger on a gun that has been retrofitted with one of these inexpensive, and easy to purchase devices, can fire 90 rounds inside of 10 seconds. These devices simply do not belong in the hands of the everyday citizen, as they have no useful place in our communities.

Since the 2012 mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, where 20 children and 6 adults were killed, there have been at least 1,600 mass shootings in America, according to the Gun Violence Archive, a non-profit that tracks gun-related violence in the United States.¹ Following the mass shooting in Las Vegas last year where 58 victims were killed and nearly 500 physically wounded, the gunman's weapons of choice garnered national attention, as those weapons had been modified with bump stocks, which allowed him to fire bullets at rates between 400 to 800 rounds per minute.

Rapid fire trigger activators facilitate a killer's ability to take countless lives in just a few moments. There is no conceivable explanation for continuing to allow individuals to have access to devices that make them weapons of war. This is common-sense legislation that will aid in protecting the lives of many men, women, and children, while they travel throughout Maryland.

Page 2

SB 707/HB 888 – Criminal Law – Firearm Crimes – Rapid Fire Trigger Activator – SUPPORT

The Prince George’s County Council views rapid fire trigger activators as unnecessary and unreasonably dangerous devices that threaten the security of our citizens, and so we wholeheartedly support this legislation and its ability to ensure that Maryland is regarded as a leader in gun control.

The Prince George’s County Council strongly **SUPPORTS SB 707/HB 888** and respectfully requests your favorable consideration of its position.

Prepared by: Tia L. Holmes
Strategic Solutions Center, LLC
Jennifer A. Jenkins
On behalf of Prince George’s County Council



¹ <http://www.gunviolencearchive.org>