



## Responsible Gun Manufacturers Act

### HB 4471 / SB 2801

*Sen. Celina Villanueva, Rep. Justin Slaughter*

This bill would prohibit the future retail sale to civilians of any semi-automatic handguns in Illinois that can be easily converted into fully automatic machine guns solely by the installation of a switch.

A [switch](#) is a small device that converts a semi-automatic pistol into a fully automatic machine gun. These devices, about the size of a coin, attach to the back of a pistol's slide and interfere with the trigger mechanism, allowing the gun to fire continuously as long as the trigger is held down.

This policy:

- Prohibits future retail sales of convertible pistols to civilians in this state.
- Would not require current owners of convertible pistols to relinquish their guns or impact their ability to use and carry them if they can legally do so in Illinois.
- Would not bar future sales to law enforcement officers or agencies, or to members of the military.

#### BACKGROUND

Fully automatic machine guns are exceptionally lethal weapons designed for use on the battlefield, capable of firing at a rate of up to [1,200](#) rounds per minute. That's why they've been prohibited by federal law and the laws of Illinois for years. Law enforcement agencies across the country have seen an increase in the use of rapid-fire devices that convert semi-automatic pistols into illegal machine guns in recent years.

*In order to fully enforce the provision of the Protect Illinois Communities Act (PICA) passed in 2023 banning rapid-fire devices and Illinois' longstanding law prohibiting machine guns, Illinois must regulate the firearms that help criminals subvert state and federal law. Gun manufacturers who use this design should innovate towards safety and fix this problem.*

Illinois' machine gun law and PICA, which included a ban on a full range of these aftermarket rapid-fire devices, including devices called a "switch," were enacted to keep our families and communities safer.

*While these switches are illegal to possess under federal and state law, they can still easily be purchased for as little as \$25 or 3D printed at home.*

Though Glock and other gunmakers who use the same design do not manufacture or sell switches themselves, they continue to sell easily convertible pistols. While Glock recently introduced new models with some small design changes, it appears that even with these changes, its pistols remain easy to quickly convert into illegal machine guns with common household tools and a switch.

- Many pistols made by other major manufacturers, including Smith & Wesson, Sig Sauer, and Taurus, cannot be converted into machine guns with switches.
- Aside from Glocks, the only other pistols that may be modified with switches are those that use similar trigger bars, including ghost guns made by Polymer80.

The consequences of the gun industry's inaction are devastating: These convertible pistols equipped with switches have become a weapon of choice for criminals and are increasingly turning up at crime scenes in Illinois and across the country, leading to more automatic gunfire in our communities. Modified pistols and switches have been recovered or used in crimes across the state of Illinois, including in Chicago, Waukegan, East St. Louis, Peoria, Bloomington, Rockford, and Joliet.

