

SUPPORT: Responsible Gun Manufacturers Act

HB 4471 / SB 2801

Sen. Celina Villanueva, Rep. Justin Slaughter

THE PROBLEM

Advancing technology has led to an urgent public safety problem of do-it-yourself or DIY machine guns. Using a small device called a "switch," a standard, semi-automatic pistol can be converted into a DIY fully automatic weapon, allowing the gun to fire continuously.

While switches are banned both federally and in Illinois, their use is growing because they are inexpensive, easily obtained devices, including by anyone with a 3D printer at home.

DIY machine guns have become a weapon of choice for criminals, with a growing number being found at crime scenes, including in Chicago, Waukegan, East St. Louis, Peoria, Bloomington, Rockford, and Joliet.

BACKGROUND

Fully automatic machine guns are exceptionally lethal weapons designed for the battlefield, capable of firing at a rate of up to 1,200 rounds per minute. As we have seen far too many times in incidents of mass violence, the use of an automatic weapon exponentially increases the number of lives lost.

In order to fully enforce the ban on assault weapons and switches in the [2023 Protect Illinois Communities Act \(PICA\)](#), Illinois must require manufacturers change the design of semi-automatic weapons to prevent the use of a switch.

By innovating toward safety, we can keep our families and communities safer. While some of the country's largest gun manufacturers have already changed their designs to prevent the use of a switch, others have not.

Just as we hold other companies responsible for their products, gun manufacturers should be held accountable when their product has extremely deadly consequences on American lives. It's time to hold gun manufacturers accountable in Illinois.

[The Responsible Gun Manufacturers Act](#) 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. It would **not** bar future sales to law enforcement officers or agencies or to members of the military. Other states with similar laws include California, Connecticut, Maryland and New York.

THE SOLUTION

[House Bill 4471/Senate Bill 280](#) or [The Responsible Gun Manufacturing Act](#) that will prohibit future retail sales of convertible pistols to civilians in this state.

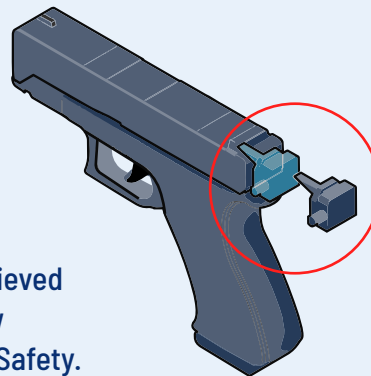
The Act will effectively ban DIY machine guns by getting to the root of the problem by requiring gun manufacturers to change the design of semi-automatic weapons to prevent the use of a switch.



Between 2021 and 2024, Chicago police recovered

more than 1,600 switches,

including at least two mass shootings, and they are believed to have been used in the shooting deaths of several law enforcement officers, according to Everytown for Gun Safety.



MASS SHOOTINGS



LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

For more context, see:

<https://chicago.suntimes.com/other-views/2026/04/15/ban-guns-pistols-converted-illegal-machine-guns-switches-violence-shootings-illinois-kathleen-sances>