

EXHIBIT 1

VICTOR R. RAMIREZ
Legislative District 47
Prince George's County

Judicial Proceedings Committee



James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 303
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3745 • 301-858-3745
800-492-7122 Ext. 3745
Fax 410-841-3387 • 301-858-3387
Victor.Ramirez@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 707

Criminal Law – Firearm Crimes – Rapid Fire Trigger Activator

Chairman Zirkin, Vice Chair Kelley, and members of the committee:

SB 707 serves the purpose of prohibiting a person from transporting, receiving, selling, or manufacturing a form of rapid fire trigger activator in the state. This bill establishes a penalty for using a rapid fire trigger activator in the commission of a crime.

Last year our country faced a horrific tragedy, the deadliest mass shooting in Modern U.S. history. It's a troubling to know 58 innocent victims had their lives taken and hundreds more were injured, because the availability of a "bump stock," a device that modified the firearm's rate of fire to mimic that of an automatic firearm. By banning rapid fire trigger activators and other devices that modify a firearm, we can place further protections and we can prevent the loss of innocent lives.

SB 707 makes it clear that its intent is to target devices, parts, or combination of the two that function to accelerate the firearm's rate of fire beyond the standard rate. If a person fails to comply with these rules they are subject to penalties, especially if the rapid fire trigger activator is used in the commission of a crime. This legislation models the 2013 assault weapon ban (SB 623), and would be adding to the copycat section of the legislation.

Current law allows these devices for both regulated and unregulated firearms, to be bought, sold, and transferred with little to no regulation. These devices can be bought for less than \$100 dollars with no background checks, meaning it's a little to no expense for someone who wants to cause serious damage.

If an individual violates the established rules under SB 707 they are subject to imprisonment not exceeding 3 years or a fine not exceeding \$5,000, or both. If an individual uses a rapid fire trigger activator in the commission of a felony or crime of violence, they shall be sentenced to imprisonment for no less than 5 years but not exceeding 20 years.

This legislation is intended to be a reasonable approach to protect the lives in Maryland, there is no reason someone should be making a semi-automatic weapon into an automatic weapon, with the ban of rapid trigger activators we can potentially be saving numerous of innocent lives, and minimizing the magnitude of tragic events such as the Las Vegas shooting.

For these reasons I ask for a favorable report on SB 707.