



VICTIM SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD

The Victim Services Advisory Board (VSAB) would like to express our support for Bill 4-21. This matter concerning “do-it-yourself” (DIY) or "ghost guns" is of grave concern to VSAB in light of the remarkable rise in the number of these types of under-regulated firearms making their way into our community.

Montgomery County's Police Chief Marcus Jones was quoted by WTOP stating, "In 2020, the Montgomery County Police Department found 73 ghost guns — 12 times as many as the year prior, when six were found." (<https://wtop.com/maryland/2021/01/maryland-state-county-lawmakers-target-ghost-guns/>, Jan. 19, 2021). An article in Bethesda Magazine reported that the Montgomery County Police had arrested 55 adults on charges of possessing or selling ghost guns, and three juveniles on charges of possessing them. (<https://bethesdamagazine.com/bethesda-beat/government/county-might-try-to-ban-undetectable-ghost-guns/>, Jan. 15, 2021) A report from Fox 45 Baltimore stated, "Last year, the ATF saw the recovery of 117 ghost guns in Maryland." (<https://foxbaltimore.com/features/operation-crime-justice/number-of-ghost-guns-recovered-in-baltimore-more-than-triples>, Dec. 3, 2020) In late 2020, the attorney's generals of D.C., Maryland, and Virginia have joined 16 other states in a lawsuit that would crack down on DIY/ghost guns. (<https://wtop.com/local/2020/12/dc-maryland-and-virginia-go-after-atf-to-regulate-ghost-guns/>, Dec. 24, 2020)

VSAB believes it is clear that the use of DIY or ghost guns must be addressed. Bill 4-21 would provide a clear definition of these types of firearms. Additionally, this bill would prohibit sharing the knowledge and availability of the materials needed to manufacture these firearms with minors and other individuals that are disqualified from legally possessing a firearm.

Department of Health and Human Services