

Testimony of Art Novotny in OPPOSITION to HB1291

Building firearms at home is certainly not a new endeavor. Recent availability of components and the unprecedented demand for firearms of any type has resulted in an exponential explosion home building. Kits (“unfinished receivers”) are flying off the shelves. I even built one myself a few years ago, that I sometimes use in competition.

There are surely many thousands of these home made firearms in the hands of legal Maryland owners. (They would already be illegal to be sold to or possessed by prohibited persons: drug users, the mentally unstable, or anyone with a serious criminal record...just like any other firearm). Unlike the similar HB0638, this bill offers no way for me (or any of the other thousands of Marylanders who have built their own firearms), to serialize and keep them.

Federally Licensed Firearms Manufactures can not issue and imprint serial numbers onto firearms that they themselves have not manufactured. There is no way to bring my home built firearm into compliance with this bill. I would have to either find a way to no longer possess it, or face imprisonment. Mine only cost a total of a few hundred dollars, but there are other law abiding Marylanders who have invested a lot more into valuable property that they will have to essentially through away (through no fault of their own). That is just not how America and due process is supposed to work.

I respectfully ask for an unfavorable report on this bill.

Thank you,  
Art Novotny  
District 7