



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Senator Löki Gale Tobin
Education Committee Chair

EDUCATION
HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES
JUDICIARY
TRANSPORTATION

SPONSOR STATEMENT

SB 203

PROHIBITED WEAPONS/FIREARM CONVERT DEVICE

Senate Bill 203 strengthens public safety in Alaska by prohibiting the possession, sale, and distribution of machine-gun conversion devices, commonly known as "Glock switches" or "auto sears". These small, easily concealed parts are designed to convert a standard semiautomatic handgun into a rapid-fire weapon, effectively turning a handgun into an illegal machine gun.

These devices present a clear and growing risk to our communities. They allow individuals to bypass federal and state firearm safety laws, resulting in weapons that can inflict mass casualties in seconds. The prevalence of these devices has surged; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) reports a 500% increase in the recovery of Glock switches over the past five years.

While federal law generally prohibits machine guns and conversion parts, SB 203 complements these existing federal statutes by codifying the ban into Alaska state law. Currently, about half of all U.S. states have enacted explicit state-level bans on these devices.

By updating the state definition of a "prohibited weapon," SB 203 provides state and local law enforcement with the clear statutory authority to prosecute the possession and use of these devices at the state level. This legislation provides local law enforcement with a more immediate tool to keep communities and children safe.

SB 203 is a commonsense measure that closes a loophole exploited by bad actors. This legislation is a response to the problem of gun violence, ensuring that Alaska law keeps pace with threats to public safety.

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