

Chairperson McEntee, Representative Messier, and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I strongly oppose H8073, which adds the word “possession” to the law restricting prohibited firearms. Last year, the General Assembly passed a law prohibiting the sale and transfer of these firearms, effective July 1, 2026, and explicitly told the public, “You can keep what you own.” This statement was misleading; the intent appears to have always been to add possession restrictions once the original law took effect. H8073 is essentially a backdoor confiscation bill, targeting law-abiding citizens for criminal liability despite prior assurances.

Introducing a possession ban before the original law even takes effect undermines public trust and demonstrates a pattern of incremental gun control, like other recent bills where restrictions are added year after year. It effectively makes it illegal for residents to retain firearms they legally purchased—a pre-meditated erosion of property rights.

Forcing citizens to comply with a law that contradicts prior promises destroys public trust and undermines the rule of law. I urge you to reject H8073 outright.

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