



**To: Hon. Matt Meyer
Governor of Delaware
150 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd South
Dover, DE 19901**

Re: Senate Bill 108 – Knife Repeal

Position: Support

Date: July 21, 2025

Governor Meyer,

As the Assistant Manager, Mid-Atlantic States for the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF), I respectfully request your signature of enactment on Senate Bill 108 (SB 108). The enactment of this legislation will remove prohibitions in Title 11 of the Delaware Code related to owning or possessing certain types of knives that may be opened with one hand. Such knives are popular with the sporting community and are lawfully used while hunting, fishing, trapping, and many other outdoor pursuits.

Founded in 1989, CSF is the informed authority across outdoor issues and serves as the primary conduit for influencing public policy. Working with the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus (CSC), the Governors Sportsmen's Caucus (GSC), and the National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses (NASC), CSF gives a voice to hunters, anglers, recreational shooters, and trappers on Capitol Hill and throughout state capitals advocating on vital outdoor issues that are the backbone of our nation's conservation legacy.

Over the years, many states have enacted laws banning the sale, possession, use, and manufacture of certain types of knives. This includes knives that the average person would consider to be common pocketknives. In some instances, states have kept laws that ambiguously refer to knives such as "bowie knife", "dirk", "dagger", and "stiletto", without clear definitions. Over time, some types of knives that are not specifically banned have been banned by judicial decisions that, by convoluted reasoning, have used existing knife bans to include various other knives.

In recent years, there has also been an effort to restrict the types of knives people carry in their everyday lives. In many instances, this has been done by attempting to redefine common pocketknives such as switchblades, gravity knives, or other knives which, in some jurisdictions, are currently illegal. This deception has most frequently been applied to knives that are capable of being

opened with one hand. One-hand opening knives are simply that – a knife you can open with one hand. Most one-hand opening knives also possess a “bias towards closure”, which means it has a spring, detent, or other mechanisms that maintains the knife in a closed position until the bias is overcome with applied pressure. None of these knives in any of their configurations meet the common definition of a switchblade.

The federal government and most states have defined switchblades as “... any knife having a blade which opens automatically (1) by hand pressure applied to a button or other device in the handle of the knife, or (2) by operation of inertia, gravity, or both.” By way of explanation, a switchblade has a bias towards opening in that, the spring, that opens the blade, is under constant tension or compression and is held from opening by a release mechanism in the handle. As soon as the blade is released by a button or other device in the handle, the blade opens automatically. Common folding knives have a bias toward closure in that the blade is not under tension to open, rather via some mechanical means, it is retained in the closed position until the blade is physically moved by the operator.¹

Since 2010, 21 states have repealed their ban on switchblade knives. For example, in 2017, Colorado enacted [SB 17-008](#) which repealed the ban on switchblades. Most recently, in 2023, Virginia enacted [HB 2298](#) which removed switchblades for the list of weapons that cannot be carried concealed in the Commonwealth. As you can see, state legislatures are continuing to remove the prohibition on knives that are in high demand by workers, sportsmen and women, and many outdoor enthusiasts.

In closing, repealing knife bans ensures that sportsmen and women are not unduly barred from carrying and using knives that have become an essential part of hunting, angling, trapping, and other outdoor recreation, as well as everyday life. For these reasons, I respectfully request your signature of enactment on SB 108. Please feel free to contact me with any comments and/or questions.

Sincerely,



Kaleigh E. Leager

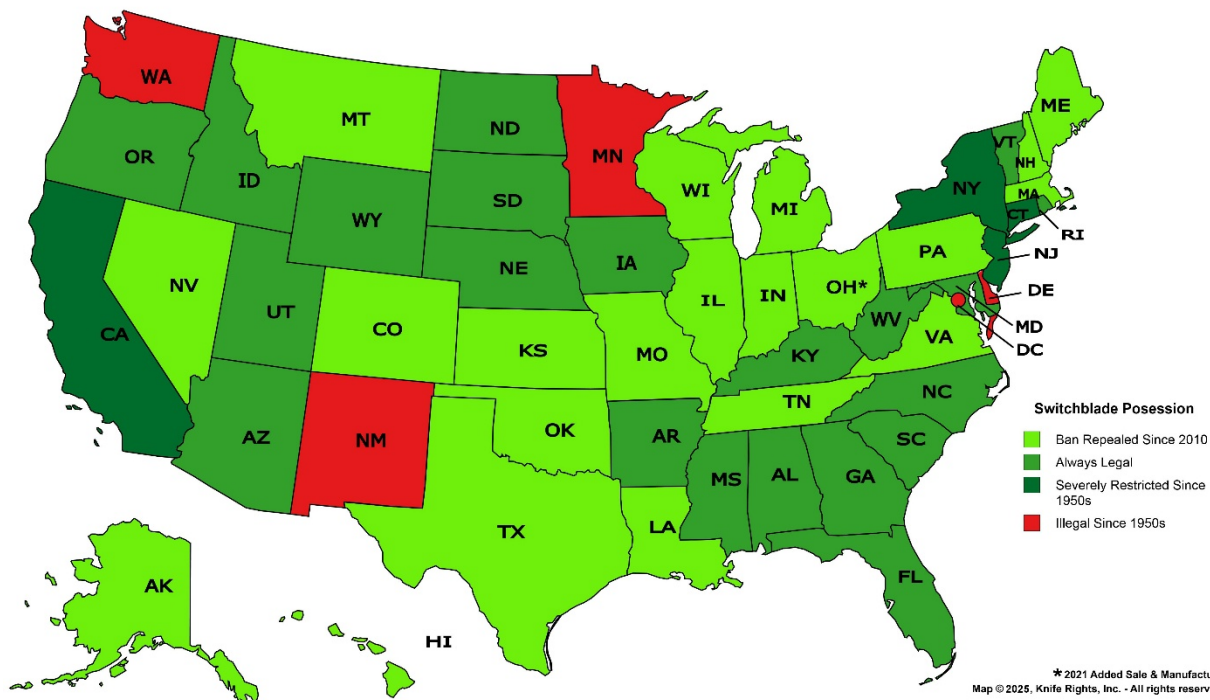
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Attachment: Civilian Switchblade Legal States as of January 1, 2025 – Knife Rights

¹ [Knife Ban Repeals – Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation](#)



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States Where Civilian Possession of a Switchblade/Automatic Knife is Legal:

45 Allow Possession (some with restrictions)

36 With No or Limited Restrictions on Possession or Everyday (Open) Carry

31 Allow Concealed Carry (*Italics*)

Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Vermont, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming

5 States Where Civilian (non-First Responders) Possession of a Switchblade/Automatic Knife is Illegal:
Delaware, Minnesota, New Mexico and Washington (Switchblades also illegal in D.C.)

19 Civilian Switchblade Ban or Restriction Repeals by Knife Rights since 2010: New Hampshire (2010), Missouri (2012), Alaska & Indiana (2013), Kansas & Texas (2013), Tennessee (2014), Maine, Nevada &

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Oklahoma (2015), Wisconsin (2016), Colorado, Michigan & Illinois (2017), Louisiana (2018), Montana (2019), Ohio (2021), Virginia & Pennsylvania (2022).

13 Knife Rights' Knife Law Preemption Bills Eliminating Local Restrictions since 2010: Arizona (2010), New Hampshire & Utah (2011), Georgia (2012), Alaska, Kansas & Tennessee (2013), Oklahoma & Texas (2015), Wisconsin (2016), Montana (2019), West Virginia (2020) and Ohio (2022). New Mexico and Wyoming already had preemption via their Constitution

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