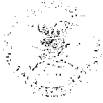


**INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION**

11250 WAPLES MILL ROAD

FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22030



**NRA**

April 3, 2023

Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Salisbury, and Honorable Members of the Committee:

I am writing to you, on behalf of the National Rifle Association, regarding Legislative Document 60 (LD 60); an act to require a 72-hour waiting period after the sale of a firearm. On behalf of the NRA, I would like to express our strong opposition to this legislation. LD 60 delays Second Amendment rights by imposing a three-day waiting period before an individual may receive a firearm that they lawfully purchased, with very few exceptions. Waiting periods are arbitrary impositions with no effect on crime or suicide, they introduce no additional investigative avenues, and they only burden law-abiding gun owners without changing how or when criminals obtain firearms.

Waiting periods were once part of federal law but only until the National Instant Criminal Check (NICS) came online in 1998, which replaced the five-day waiting period with an instant background check. While most checks are instant, the FBI has three days to complete the background check before the transfer can proceed.

Waiting periods do not provide additional tools for investigations. The background check does not change in the presence of a waiting period. The FBI would still run the background check through the same databases. Most buyers will continue to be approved instantly, and those who are not approved instantly will still be flagged for additional investigation. No additional information will be uncovered with the addition of a waiting period on top of the existing three-day delay.

Lastly, there is no logical basis in the argument that waiting periods result in a "cooling off" of the purchaser. Two-thirds of gun owners own more than one gun. A cooling-off period for these individuals could not possibly have an effect because they already own other firearms. There is no scientific evidence that waiting periods have any effect on suicide, homicide, or mass shootings.

On behalf of our thousands of members across Maine, I urge the committee to oppose Legislative Document 60. Please do not hesitate to call me if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

Justin E. Davis  
State Director, NRA-ILA