



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 1174

H.P. 779

House of Representatives, March 20, 2025

**An Act to Allow Gun Shops to Hold Firearms for Veterans of the
United States Armed Forces and First Responders**

Reference to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative WOOD of Greene.
Cosponsored by Senator HAGGAN of Penobscot, Senator HARRINGTON of York and
Representatives: ARDELL of Monticello, GREENWOOD of Wales, LAJOIE of Lewiston,
PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft, POMERLEAU of Standish, WHITE of Guilford.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 25 MRSA §2017** is enacted to read:

3 **§2017. Limitation of liability of holder of firearm hold agreement**

4 **1. Definitions.** As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the
5 following terms have the following meanings.

6 A. "Firearm" has the same meaning as in Title 17-A, section 2, subsection 12-A.

7 B. "Firearm hold agreement" means a written or oral agreement between a firearm
8 owner and another person in which the person at the owner's request takes physical
9 possession of a lawfully possessed firearm of the owner and holds the firearm for an
10 agreed period of time.

11 C. "First responder" has the same meaning as in Title 22, section 832-A, subsection 1,
12 paragraph E.

13 D. "Gun shop" has the same meaning as in section 2015, subsection 1, paragraph D.

14 **2. Holding firearms for 3rd parties.** A gun shop may take possession of a firearm
15 from a veteran of the United States Armed Forces or first responder for safekeeping under
16 the following conditions:

17 A. The gun shop determines that the veteran of the United States Armed Forces or first
18 responder is the owner of the firearm;

19 B. The gun shop enters into a firearm hold agreement with the owner of the firearm;

20 C. The firearm is kept separate from the gun shop's inventory; and

21 D. The gun shop contacts the owner of the firearm every 6 months after taking
22 possession of the firearm until the firearm is returned to the owner of the firearm.

23 **3. Immunity from liability.** An action may not be taken against a gun shop that
24 entered into a firearm hold agreement for returning the firearm to the owner of the firearm
25 at the termination of the firearm hold agreement. The immunity provided in this subsection
26 does not apply to otherwise unlawful conduct of the gun shop returning the firearm to the
27 owner of the firearm under this section.

28 **4. Rules.** The Department of Public Safety shall adopt rules to carry out the purposes
29 of this section. Rules adopted under this subsection are routine technical rules under Title
30 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

31 **Sec. 2. Department of Public Safety to create firearm hold agreement form.**

32 By January 1, 2026, the Department of Public Safety shall create a firearm hold agreement
33 form to be used by gun shops that hold firearms for veterans of the United States Armed
34 Forces or first responders. The firearm hold agreement form must indicate an immediate
35 family member or other individual who may lawfully possess a firearm and who may take
36 possession of the firearm upon proof of the death of the owner of the firearm during the
37 pendency of the firearm hold agreement.

38 **SUMMARY**

39 This bill allows a gun shop to take possession of a firearm owned by a veteran of the
40 United States Armed Forces or first responder if the gun shop enters into a firearm hold

1 agreement with the owner, keeps the firearm separate from the gun shop inventory and
2 contacts the owner every 6 months. The firearm hold agreement must indicate a family
3 member or other individual who may lawfully possess a firearm and will take possession
4 of the firearm upon proof of the death of the owner of the firearm during the pendency of
5 the firearm hold agreement.