

My first reaction when I read this bill was, “What on earth is this supposed to mean? This doesn’t sound like a law, it sounds like a statement of intent. And who is ‘The State?’” The Maine Constitution begins, “We the people of Maine...” The people ARE the State of Maine, yet I don’t believe that’s what this bill intends.

Merriam Webster provides the following definitions:

Intend 1: have (a course of action) as one's purpose or objective; plan.

Occupy 3a: to take or hold possession or control of

Preempt 1: take action in order to prevent (an anticipated event) from happening; forestall.

Maine Constitution Article 1, Section 1 gives us “certain natural, inherent and unalienable rights, among which are those of enjoying and defending life and liberty...” Does this bill intend to remove our unalienable right to defend life?

It appears our “State” needs to be reminded of the Constitution by which we agreed to operate.

Maine Constitution Article 1, Section 2: “Power inherent in people. **All power is inherent in the people;** all free governments are founded in their authority and instituted for their benefit; they have therefore an unalienable and indefeasible right to institute government, and to alter, reform, or totally change the same, when their safety and happiness require it.”

Article 1, Section 13: Suspension of laws. The laws shall not be suspended **but by the Legislature** or its authority.

Article 3 Section 1: “Powers distributed. The powers of this government shall be divided into 3 distinct departments, the legislative, executive and judicial.”

Section 2: “To be kept separate. **No person or persons, belonging to one of these departments, shall exercise any of the powers properly belonging to either of the others,** except in the cases herein expressly directed or permitted.”

Article 4, Section 1: “The legislative power shall be vested in 2 distinct branches, a House of Representatives, and a Senate, each to have a negative on the other, and both to be styled the Legislature of Maine, but **the people reserve to themselves power to propose laws and to enact or reject the same at the polls independent of the Legislature,** and also reserve power at their own option to approve or reject at the polls any Act, bill, resolve or resolution passed by the joint action of both branches of the Legislature...”

This bill says, “The State intends to occupy and preempt the entire field of legislation...” That appears to allow the State to do what only the Legislature and the people are authorized to do. If our government intends to ignore our Constitution, perhaps it is time for us to “to alter, reform, or totally change” that government. I sincerely hope we have not come to that point. Please vote LD 1343 “ought not to pass.”