

Donald Mailhot
Auburn
LD 1109

LD 1109 -An Act to Reduce Gun Violence Casualties in Maine by Prohibiting the Possession of Large-capacity Ammunition Feeding Devices. I am unable to testify in person.

My name is Donald Mailhot. I am a retired Lewiston Police Lieutenant, serving they City of Lewiston for over 24 years. I also own a firearm safety training company, R.D. Tactical Handgun Instruction LLC for the past 15 years. I am an NRA and USCCA Firearms instructor. I am also a court certified Firearm Safety Expert. L+M Property MGT vs. Moark.

I am submitting this testimony to appose LD 1109.

Standard capacity magazines [15 +], especially in handguns have been a norm for years. These standard capacity magazines would not reduce gun violence causalities in Maine. I say, standard because it is common for handguns to have upwards of 15 Plus rounds and defensive rifles to have 30.

My own personal experience is in 1988, my friend and fellow officer was killed on duty by a dangerous criminal. Officer David Payne. Myself and fellow officer David Chamberlain were in the woods, a hundred yards behind . Officer Payne, when suspect Nicolo Leone exchanged gunfire. Officer Payne was mortally wounded and had ran out of ammo in his revolver. He was unable to reload and was killed. Had he had a semi automatic pistol with additional rounds in it, there is a very good possibility he would be alive as that would have given us time to get to him.

Within a year or so, the Lewiston Police Department eliminated their revolvers and went with Sig Sauer P226 9mm semi autos with 15 round magazines. A common sense decision by the city council.

Law Enforcement officers and including the State Police team that protect high ranking political officers in this state carry firearms with these 15 round plus magazines. Including defensive rifles. Citizens of Maine should have the same ability to be able to defend themselves with a firearm that has more than 10 rds. This would eliminate the need for an emergency reload under a high stress situation.

Current common magazine capacities are not the issue. This bill would be cost prohibitive, violate common sense standard magazine capacity, and make 10's of thousands of Maine citizens criminals for possessing something that was already legal.

Thank you for your time.