

## LD 677 - An Act to Update the Statutory Definition of "Machine Gun" and Prohibit Possession of a Rapid-fire Device

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Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, Members of the Judiciary Committee, I am Peter Morgan, I live in Raymond, Maine and I have been very concerned about the impact of firearms on our community since our sons were in a Philadelphia area high school in 1999. My life had been relatively sheltered to that point but the massacre in Littleton, Colorado, 1,700 miles away had an impact on me and created a new awareness. Our neighborhood watch coordinated with our school administration and police department to monitor the school facility on a subsequent Friday, in an attempt to provide a secure environment out of concern for a rumored copycat incident.

Rapid fire devices such as bump stocks, and machinegun conversion devices such as autosears and switches, have been used in mass shootings and other horrific incidents of gunfire across the country, including in New England. Some of these devices enable a shooter to fire up to 1,200 rounds per minute.

Maine already recognizes the danger of machineguns that fire dozens of rounds in rapid succession. Current Maine law bans weapons that have certain devices attached to firearms. State lawmakers should directly address the sale and proliferation of these devices themselves, rather than just wait until they are attached to a firearm.

Maine lawmakers should pass a law to prohibit rapid fire devices and machinegun conversion devices that can greatly accelerate a semiautomatic gun's normal rate of fire or even turn a gun into a fully automatic firearm. There is no need for such a weapon to be in the possession of residents or visitors to our community. ( It puts our law enforcement agencies at a disadvantage during operations that escalate to lethal levels. )

I encourage members of the Committee to vote OUGHT TO PASS this legislation.