

Richard Shapiro
Brunswick
LD 1126

NOTE: This is updated - I have learned more about this bill since I uploaded testimony, and I seek to revise my testimony.

Dear Committee Members, my name is Richard Shapiro. I live in Brunswick.

I am testifying in opposition to “LD 1126 - An Act Requiring Serial Numbers on Firearms and Prohibiting Undetectable Firearms”

Please vote “ought not to pass”.

This bill is an ignorant solution looking for a non-existent problem.

First let’s tackle undetectable firearms. All ammunition is metallic. Period. There is no such thing as an undetectable LOADED firearm. I would also note that the creation of such a thing, were it possible (It isn’t to date) is already a crime under federal law. While one can fire a small caliber bullet – sometimes – without removing one’s own hand – using a plastic gun, it’s not sufficiently effective in the real world to be worth doing. Those actually seeking to USE firearms don’t bother with this. EFFECTIVE firearms require metal barrels and chambers.

Second, as to the serialization of firearms.

There are no known FFLs in Maine who can comply with the process as outlined. This proposal is an instant ban on any such items.

The proposal, through its broad, ill-conceived, language seeks to codify what the Federal Government has realized is impossible – it tries to define when a hunk of metal or plastic becomes a gun part or can readily be made into one.

And, in doing so, it accidentally renders a great number of random gun parts subject to serialization – such as all AR uppers – an interchangeable, almost disposable, part – because they “provides housing or a structure designed to hold or integrate one or more fire control components.” Even the ATF realized that this definition is overbroad, unworkable, and an unjust imposition on the gun-owning public.

And, as to what serialization really does ... it doesn’t solve crime. In the day of DNA analysis and surveillance, the police literally never need to use the serial number of a firearm to do anything other than to return a stolen firearm to its owner (something the anti-gun crowd would prefer never happen anyway).

Again – in 2025, WHAT DOES SERIALIZATION DO? Nothing that benefits the anti-2Amendment advocates.

This is another case of local advocates for chipping away at our constitutional rights downloading language from a national group without understanding the language or how firearms operate. Maine’s law abiding citizens deserve better than such “throw it at the wall and maybe we’ll get some limitation on them passed, somehow” tactics.