

LD 1109 - An Act to Reduce Gun Violence Casualties in Maine by Prohibiting the Possession of Large-capacity Ammunition Feeding Devices

Memorandum of Opposition

Date: March 26, 2025

To: Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee Members,

From: Jonathan Martell

RE: LD 1109 - An Act to Reduce Gun Violence Casualties in Maine by Prohibiting the Possession of Large-capacity Ammunition Feeding Devices

Members of the committee, I would like to express my Opposition of LD 1109 - An Act to Reduce Gun Violence Casualties in Maine by Prohibiting the Possession of Large-capacity Ammunition Feeding Devices

My Name is Jonathan Martell, from Sanford.

I am a currently serving Sanford City Councilor, Lifetime member of the Gun Owners of Maine, Legislative Officer for the Sanford Springvale Fish and Game Club, NRA Range Safety Officer, and lifelong firearms enthusiast.

An identical bill was defeated back in 2019 that also attempted to ban standard capacity magazines. See LD 1071 - An Act To Prohibit the Sale of High-capacity Magazines.

Any magazine or firearm ban is a violation of the Maine State Constitution. You may remember the Clinton era so called Assault Weapons ban of the 90's. This federally banned magazines over 10 rounds. After a decade of being in place it was shown to have no impact on crime. Given these facts, the only logical conclusion is that this is purely about advancing the agenda of those that don't want firearms in the hands of citizens. Almost all of the bills recently in Maine have been sponsored by the likes of Bloomberg, and other anti-gun rights groups.

Citizens are the true first responders. The police only show up after everything is over. This sort of ban would only serve to help criminals fighting against a homeowner, or a person trying to defend themselves or their family. Many times there are multiple assailants, and even police have an average of a 30% hit rate.

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/08/26/us/why-police-shoot-so-many-rounds-trnd/index.html#:~:text=A%202019%20study%20of%20the,only%20about%2023%25%20of%20targets.>

US experiences approximately 1.5 million home invasions yearly, making it a common yet serious threat to residential security. Many times it takes more than one hit to stop someone that is intent on harming you or your family. The prevalence of drugs makes this even worse of a threat. This will unnecessarily put people in harms way due to running out of ammunition when it is needed most.

<https://getsafeandsound.com/blog/home-invasion-statistics/#:~:text=The%20US%20experiences%20approximately%201.5,Data%20from%20bank%20rate.>

30 round magazines are standard capacity for most rifles. Most handguns have at least a 15rd magazine. You may not realize, but this would ban almost all handgun and rifle magazines in the state.

A 10 round magazine is considered a low capacity magazine, in the gun industry for uses in self defense or competition.

This ban will make most gun owners criminals with no reimbursement for the thousands of dollars worth of magazines that some people already own. Like with bump stocks and other gun accessories, it's basically unenforceable and will only serve to criminalize someone that had to exercise their rights in a self defense situation. These magazines are in common use and fall under arms as discussed in Heller Supreme Court case.

This will also have an extremely negative effect on shooting sports competitions as low capacity firearms have to be used in a different class of competition or not at all.

Maine does NOT have a gun problem. It has a drug problem, it has mental health problems, but making good people unable to effectively defend themselves does the opposite of what elections officials are supposed to do which is uphold the Constitution so that citizens can protect themselves and their own rights

Once again, this bill goes against the Maine State Constitution in that infringes on a persons right to keep and bear arms as they see fit. Maine has a long heritage of safe firearm use, and is one of the safest states in the country.

Don't violate your oath of office, vote Ought Not to Pass

Sincerely,

Jonathan Martell
Sanford, ME

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Sanford
LD 1109

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