

David Souers
Friendship
LD 1126

1126 An Act Requiring Serial Numbers on Firearms and Prohibiting Undetectable Firearms

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, Members of the committee, I am David Souers. I live in Friendship, Maine. I am a retired healthcare facility architect from a family that owned, collected and used firearms as a hobby, and for recreation, target practice, hunting and protecting our agriculture from certain wildlife, in compliance with a variety of laws protecting ourselves and others for the types of firearms, locations and use.

I am testifying in favor of LD 1126 to require serial numbers on all firearms and all firearms to be detectable by metal detectors used in security clearances.

Current federal and state laws in Maine allow law enforcement to trace crime guns and help keep people with significant histories of violence or domestic abuse from accessing guns. While these measures are essential to preventing gun violence, the ability to create firearms outside of the gun industries with materials and fabrication that avoid serial numbers and materials that are undetectable by current security methods make the current laws ineffective. Clearly the intent is to find work arounds for our current laws. This is in spite of the claims by gun advocates that this is innocent technology and hobby projects, a designed for criminal purposes.

This is especially dangerous in Maine, which took important steps in the wake of the mass shooting in Lewiston to strengthen our gun safety laws. In 2024, Maine expanded background checks to prevent people who are legally disqualified from buying firearms, and more often than not, these same people often turn to unserialized firearm products as an alternative to escape our laws.

These products are constantly being found in other communities in New England, and are now found in Maine. In 2022, a 16-year-old in Maine shot and killed a man using an unserialized firearm assembled from parts ordered online anonymously, without a background check, for about \$600.

Between 2017 and 2021, 25 unserialized firearm products were recovered at crime scenes in Maine and reported to the ATF. Between just 2022 and 2023, that number rose to 41. An increase in the rate of annual recoveries of more than triple.

Federal attempts to classify some unserialized firearm products as firearms have not been accomplished. Therefore Maine must now pass a strong state serialization law to ensure that dangerous, unserialized firearm products are treated the same as every other firearm under Maine law.

This will ensure that in Maine all firearms will be treated the same regardless of the materials they are made of or how the firearms are manufactured , fabricated or assembled.

All Maine residents should be protected regardless of any future developments at the federal level, or in the design and manufacture of firearms, and that law enforcement will be fully equipped to investigate and trace all crime guns regardless of how they came to be, while respecting the Second Amendment which does not distinguish between materials or methods of creating a firearm.

Reforms should accommodate for the manufacture of all components of a firearm, frame, or receiver, including fabricated by a 3D printer, provided the firearm is promptly engraved with a federal serial number by a federal firearm licensee. Creating these products while circumventing serialization requirements should be prohibited.

These regulations would hold unserialized and alternative material firearm products to the same standards as all other guns in Maine. They can help ensure this crisis does

not undo the progress that Maine has made in protecting its residents and preventing gun violence while respecting Constitutional rights.

Gun safety and gun rights are clearly a right and responsibility of all Mainers and guest visitors to Maine, unarmed and armed Mainers deserve to live in safety without threats or gun violence.

I advocate that LD 1126 ought to pass.