

Dane Courtois
Hiram
LD 1230

To the Honorable Members of the Maine Judiciary Committee,

My name is Dane Courtois, a proud resident of Hiram, and I stand firmly in support of LD 1230, An Act to Abolish the 72-hour Waiting Period for a Gun Purchase. This bill is a vital strike against government overreach and a defense of the sacred individual liberties that Maine's hardworking people—loggers, fishermen, and small business owners cherish. The 72-hour waiting period is an affront to our freedom, and it's time to dismantle it.

The waiting period, rammed through by meddling bureaucrats, assumes Mainers can't be trusted with their own decisions. It's a patronizing "cooling-off" scheme with no solid evidence it stops crime or saves lives. Peer-reviewed studies, like those from the RAND Corporation, show waiting periods have negligible impact on violence rates. Meanwhile, Maine's background check system already weeds out the unfit. Piling on a three-day delay isn't public safety—it's punishment for exercising a God-given right enshrined in the constitutions of Maine and these United States.

This law doesn't just infringe on liberty; it spits in the face of practicality. For a single mother in Cumberland County escaping a stalker, three days could be a death sentence. For a hunter in Oxford County gearing up for a season that feeds his family, it's a pointless hurdle costing time and money. Rural Mainers shouldn't have to beg the state's permission—after passing a background check—to defend their lives or livelihoods. And let's not ignore the economic hit: gun shops, often family-run, lose business when customers walk away frustrated or take their dollars to New Hampshire.

Libertarians like me believe government exists to protect rights, not to nanny its citizens. The waiting period fails that test. It's a one-size-fits-all mandate that ignores individual circumstances and Maine's independent spirit. Worse, it's on shaky legal ground—federal courts, including a February 2025 ruling, have already slapped down Maine's delay as a constitutional overstep. Why cling to a policy that's both ineffective and unlawful?

I demand the Committee back LD 1230 to abolish this intrusive waiting period. Free Maine's citizens from this bureaucratic shackle, restore our right to self-defense without delay, and send a message that government answers to us, not the other way around. Thank you for hearing me out.

Sincerely, Dane Courtois