

May 1, 2025

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and members of the Judiciary Committee, I am State Representative Art Bell, House District #103, Yarmouth, and I am submitting testimony ***supporting of LD 1743.***

I am in support of LD 1743 because the bill allows for home rule authority, entrusting elected officials and local officials with the responsibility to determine whether to impose a limited restriction on the possession of firearms in places where people are conducting town business.

This bill identifies places where the possession of firearms can be limited by local ordinances, such as municipal buildings, voting places, and town proceedings. The bill provides that notice of the prohibition must be posted. And the bill protects the ability of a federal, state, county or local law enforcement officer to possess a firearm.

And most importantly, the bill requires the people of the town to decide whether the restriction meets the needs of the town. The restriction becomes effective only if the town adopts the ordinance.

I support LD 1743 as written, and urge the committee to vote ***Ought to Pass on LD 1743.***