



CITY OF BANGOR

Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

Testimony on LD 1743 – “An Act to Allow Municipalities to Prohibit Firearms Within Their Municipal Buildings and Voting Places and at Their Municipal Public Proceedings”

April 30, 2025

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, I am Debbie Laurie, City Manager for the City of Bangor. On behalf of the Bangor City Council I am providing testimony in support of LD 1743 “An Act to Allow Municipalities to Prohibit Firearms within their Municipal Buildings and Voting Places and at their Municipal Public Proceedings”.

Under existing law, the state has preempted a municipality’s authority to regulate firearms, with the only exception being the adoption of firearms discharge ordinances. Currently, there are no other circumstances in which municipalities can regulate the possession of firearms.

LD 1743 would allow each municipality to determine whether or not to enact a local ordinance to impose a very limited restriction on the possession of firearms in places where people conduct municipal business such as; municipal buildings, voting places and at municipal public proceedings. Further, the proposed bill includes prominent notice requirements, protects the ability of law enforcement officers to possess firearms in areas where it is otherwise prohibited, and allows each municipality the ability to enact appropriate policies for their respective community.

We believe LD 1743 respects our citizens’ concerns while protecting the safety and security of the public and our staff. We urge the Committee to vote “Ought to Pass” on LD 1743.

Thank you for your consideration, and please do not hesitate to reach out with questions.

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