

CLAC MEMORANDUM/TESTIMONY NFNA LD 885
An Act to Allow Certain Persons with a Permit to Carry Concealed Handguns to Possess or
Discharge a Firearm on School Property

TO: Senator Joseph Rafferty
Representative Kelly Murphy

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs
FR: Criminal Law Advisory Commission (CLAC)
c/o laura.yustak@maine.gov

RE: LD 885, An Act to Allow Certain Persons with a Permit to Carry Concealed Handguns to
Possess or Discharge a Firearm on School Property

DA: May 7, 2025

The Criminal Law Advisory Commission (CLAC)* respectfully submits the following testimony neither for nor against LD 885.

The language of the bill is quite broad, and would permit possession and discharge on school property by anyone 21 and over who is not a student at the school, as long as the person has a permit, without express limitation. CLAC questioned the specific purpose of the bill, and what issue the Legislature seeks to address in carving out this exception for concealed carry permit holders. The current exceptions in the statute at § 6552(2)(A)-(C) are more narrowly drawn.

*CLAC is an advisory body established by the Legislature. 17-A M.R.S. §§ 1351-1357. It consists of 9 members appointed by the Attorney General. Our current members include defense attorneys, prosecutors, Maine Bar Counsel, and a retired practitioner with experience as defense counsel, prosecutor and in court administration. In addition, three sitting judges and one retired practitioner, appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court, and, by statute, the Co-Chairs of the Legislature's Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety, serve as consultants. The Supreme Judicial Court's Criminal Process Manager serves as liaison from the Court to CLAC. CLAC advises the Legislature on matters relating to crimes in the Criminal Code and in other Titles, the Bail and Juvenile Codes, and with respect to other statutes related to criminal justice processes.