



Maine Sheriffs' Association

"One Team, One Mission"

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April 3, 2023

L.D. 582 – An Act to Enhance Certain Penalties for Possession of Firearms for Prohibited Persons

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Salisbury, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice, my name is Kevin Joyce. I am the Sheriff of Cumberland County and here on behalf of the Maine Sheriffs Association.

Maine sheriffs met to evaluate LD 582 – An Act to Enhance Certain Penalties for Possession of Firearms for Prohibited Persons. Maine sheriffs support this bill unanimously.

One of the most compelling studies that focuses on public mass shootings, was conducted by the U.S. Department of Justice in February of 2022. While there is a plethora of research available pertaining to mass shootings and deadly force, this DOJ article specifically hones in on the impact of persons who are prohibited from owning firearms and subsequent devastation of their actions.

The DOJ claims that 13% of those individuals who engaged in mass shootings in 2022 did so with illegally obtained firearms. Our country was devastated by 647 mass shootings in 2022, with more than 44,000 people perishing in these attacks. While 13% may seem like a low percentage, the families of those 338 people who died at the hands of those criminals who were prohibited from owning firearms might argue that **any strategies** implemented to deter the use of illegal firearms must be implemented.

While there is a slight deviation when comparing this proposed bill to the statistics of illegally obtained firearms, it is clear that persons who are prohibited from ownership would be left with few choices other than obtaining these weapons illegally.

Maine sheriffs urge members of this distinguished committee to unanimously support the passage of L.D. 582. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Sheriff Kevin Joyce
Maine Sheriffs' Association