

LD 1561 An Act to Restore Firearm Rights and Hunting Privileges to Persons Previously Convicted of Certain Nonviolent Felony Crimes

Memorandum of Support

Date: May 8, 2023

To: Honorable Members of the Committee On Criminal Justice and Public Safety.

From: Jonathan Martell

RE: LD 1561 An Act to Restore Firearm Rights and Hunting Privileges to Persons Previously Convicted of Certain Nonviolent Felony Crimes

Members of the committee, I would like to express my Support of LD 1561 An Act to Restore Firearm Rights and Hunting Privileges to Persons Previously Convicted of Certain Nonviolent Felony Crimes

My Name is Jonathan Martell. I am a Sanford City Councilor, Head of The Southern Maine Chapter for Gun Owners of Maine, Legislative Officer for Sanford Springvale Fish and Game Club and NRA Member.

This bill simply affirms the Maine Constitutional right to keep and bear arms. This is a step in the right direction for those that have paid their debt to society. Even Felons can vote in Maine because it is considered a basic right. This bill has strict guidelines for restoration of rights along with a 10 year waiting period. Should a old man or woman not be able to defend themselves for something they did decades ago? Felonies originally were limited to the most heinous of crimes, but now extend to non violent offenses. While I don't see that status going away anytime soon, the injustice of not having your Constitutionally protected right is a crime in itself.

Please support Mainer's Constitutional Rights, by supporting this bill.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Martell  
Sanford, ME  
Sanford City Councilor  
Head of The Southern Maine Chapter for Gun Owners of Maine  
Legislative Officer for Sanford Springvale Fish and Game Club  
National Rifle Association Member