

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002 (207) 287-1440 TTY: (207) 287-4469

Joshua Morris P.O. Box 246 North Turner, ME 04266 Phone: (207) 754-7829 Joshua.Morris@legislature.maine.gov

February 27, 2025

Senator Curry, Representative Gere, members of the committee on Housing and Economic Development, I am Representative Joshua Morris, and I am here to present LD 337, <u>An Act to Repeal the Sunday Amateur Sports Law, the Law Allowing</u> <u>Municipalities to Permit the Operation of Movie Theaters on Sundays, and the Law</u> <u>Imposing a Fine or Imprisonment for Playing Games and Sports with Admission</u> <u>Charges on Memorial Day.</u>

As I was looking to repeal other "blue laws," I came across these three laws that seem archaic and due to the nature of the penalties, probably not enforced. In the case of the Sunday Amateur Sports Law, the fine for violation is \$5. I have seen youth football, baseball, hockey, and basketball games played on Sundays, so I am quite certain that these laws are not enforced. Additionally, I don't believe a \$5 fine is much of a deterrent.

In the case of movie theaters, they are operating 7 days a week and usually before 1:00 as the law states right now. I could not find an instance where the current law is enforced so I believe it makes sense to repeal the statute. In fact, movie theaters are one of the businesses granted an exception under section 3204 of the same title and chapter.

In the case of the statute regarding games and sports on Memorial Day, the penalty is for charging admission before 3:30 in the afternoon. The penalty for a violation is a fine of \$25, 10 days imprisonment, or both. I am not aware of anyone violating this or wanting to have an event. I would suggest if anyone did, the penalties would not be a significant deterrent. I think we could safely repeal this law without any risk to the public.

I submitted this bill because these laws seem silly, not enforced, and the penalties are insignificant. I believe it would make sense to repeal these laws. Thank you for your consideration and I would be happy to answer any questions.

Joshua Morris State Representative