



GUN OWNERS OF MAINE

DEFENDING GUN RIGHTS

Regarding LD 424: An Act Concerning the Concealed Carrying of a Handgun by an Individual Who is 18 years of Age but Under 21 Years of Age

On behalf of our membership and the Gun Owners of Maine Board of Directors, I am testifying in favor of this proposed piece of legislation.

Not unlike LD 829 (regarding the standardization surrounding the requirement of a permit to carry a concealed handgun in State Parks), LD 1049 (regarding the standardization surrounding the requirement of the duty to inform a law enforcement officer while carrying a concealed handgun), or LD 998 (regarding the standardization surrounding the requirement of a permit to safely store a concealed handgun in your car while at your place of employment), this bill seeks to standardize State law surrounding at what age one can legally carry a concealed weapon without a permit.

Since the inception of "Constitutional Carry" in the State of Maine, those citizens who carry a concealed handgun permit, according to the United States Concealed Carry Association, register at about 2% of the State's population. While the rate of firearms ownership in the State of Maine is close to half our total population.

Despite the claims by those opposed to permit-less carry on its initial passage, our State has not turned into the Wild West.

We have decided as a society that when the age of eighteen is reached, one can sign documents and enter into contracts, smoke cigarettes, get married, sign up for military service, etc. The list is long, and I think we are all aware of what that list entails.

If someone is allowed to do all of these things of their own free will, and if one is allowed to apply for and receive a Concealed Handgun Permit from the State of Maine, it stands to reason that that individual should not be prohibited from exercising the right of self-defense and preservation solely based on what would seem to be nothing but an arbitrary extension of adulthood into the age of 21.

Please consider standardizing the Concealed Handgun laws in our State, ensuring equal access to the right to defend oneself as a resident who has reached the age of majority, and vote Ought to Pass.

Should you have any questions, concerns, or wish to take advantage of the training that Gun Owners of Maine offers to all sitting legislators, free of charge and provided by licensed instructors, please don't hesitate to contact me.

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Regarding LD 829: An Act to Standardize the Laws Regarding the Carrying of Concealed Handguns in State Parks

On behalf of our membership and the Gun Owners of Maine Board of Directors, I am testifying in favor of this proposed piece of legislation.

Since the inception of "Constitutional Carry" in the State of Maine, those citizens who carry a concealed handgun permit, according to the United States Concealed Carry Association, register at about 2% of the State's population.

Quite conversely, the rate of firearms ownership in the State of Maine is close to half our total population.

Many different people from many different walks of life choose to frequent Maine's State Parks, and those with a valid concealed handgun permit are allowed to do so with their firearm. Unfortunately, current law prohibits those who do not have a concealed handgun permit from doing so in a State Park, forcing them to choose between frequenting said parks, and staying home.

One might ask why the rights enshrined in our State and US Constitutions, further codified by Maine allowing responsible gun owners to conceal their handguns without permission from the government, should be left at the threshold of a Park that is, indeed, owned by The People and which should be enjoyed by all.

State Park attendees may choose to carry a concealed handgun for personal protection while accessing remote areas, to ensure personal safety in case of an encounter with certain wildlife, or simply because their every-day life includes the decision to be prepared to defend their lives, or those around them, with a legally owned firearm.

Please consider standardizing the Concealed Handgun laws in our State, ensuring equal access to our State Parks, and vote Ought to Pass on this important piece of legislation.

Should you have any questions, concerns, or wish to take advantage of the training that Gun Owners of Maine offers to all sitting legislators, free of charge and provided by licensed instructors, please don't hesitate to contact me.

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Regarding LD 1049: An Act to Eliminate the Duty to Inform a Law Enforcement Officer When Carrying a Concealed Handgun Without a Permit

On behalf of our membership and the Gun Owners of Maine Board of Directors, I am testifying in favor of this proposed piece of legislation.

Not unlike LD 829 (regarding the standardization surrounding the requirement of a permit to carry a concealed handgun in State Parks), LD 424 (regarding the standardization surrounding age requirements while carrying a concealed handgun), or LD 998 (regarding the standardization surrounding the requirement of a permit to safely store a concealed handgun in your car while at your place of employment), this bill seeks to standardize State law surrounding the duty to notify a law enforcement officer of the presence of a concealed handgun.

There is great variety in how States across the country handle "Duty to Inform":

Must Notify

Alaska
Texas
Louisiana
Arkansas
Nebraska
North Carolina
New Jersey
Michigan
Hawaii
District of Columbia

Notify Only When Asked

Washington Ohio
Oregon Virginia
Arizona Pennsylvania
Wyoming New York
Oklahoma Tennessee
Missouri Alabama
Minnesota Florida
Wisconsin
Illinois
Kentucky

Hybrid

California (no statewide law)
North Dakota (permit dependent)
Maine (permit dependent)

Every other state not listed has no current statute regarding duty to inform, and clearly the vast majority have no such requirement.

An individual in possession of an illegal handgun is not going to inform law enforcement of such. Requiring a responsible, law-abiding gun owner to disclose the possession of a firearm when stopped for something as benign as a blown license plate lightbulb, unnecessarily escalates the encounter.

Please consider standardizing the Concealed Handgun laws in our State and vote Ought to Pass.

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Regarding LD 998: An Act Regarding an Employer's Authority to Prohibit an Employee from Storing a Firearm in the Employee's Vehicle

On behalf of our membership and the Gun Owners of Maine Board of Directors, I am testifying in favor of this proposed piece of legislation.

Not unlike LD 829 (regarding the standardization surrounding the requirement of a permit to carry a concealed handgun in State Parks), LD 1049 (regarding the standardization surrounding the requirement of the duty to inform a law enforcement officer while carrying a concealed handgun), or LD 424 (regarding the standardization surrounding the requirement age), this bill seeks to standardize State law surrounding the safe storage of a legally-owned firearm in a vehicle while at work.

Since the inception of "Constitutional Carry" in the State of Maine, those citizens who carry a concealed handgun permit, according to the United States Concealed Carry Association, register at about 2% of the State's population. While the rate of firearms ownership in the State of Maine is close to half our total population.

Despite the claims by those opposed to permit-less carry on its initial passage, our State has not turned into the Wild West.

While those who carry a concealed handgun permit are allowed to freely store their firearm safely in their vehicle, the same right is not extended to those who choose to exercise their right to bear arms without a permit. This prohibition unnecessarily infringes on that individual's ability to defend and protect themselves before or after work.

Please consider standardizing the Concealed Handgun laws in our State, ensuring equal access to the right to defend oneself, and vote Ought to Pass.

Should you have any questions, concerns, or wish to take advantage of the training that Gun Owners of Maine offers to all sitting legislators, free of charge and provided by licensed instructors, please don't hesitate to contact me.

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