

Date: March 26, 2025

To: Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee Members,

From: Jonathan Martell

My Name is Jonathan Martell, from Sanford.

I am a currently serving Sanford City Councilor, Lifetime member of the Gun Owners of Maine, Legislative Officer for the Sanford- Springvale Fish and Game Club, NRA Range Safety Officer, and lifelong firearms enthusiast.

Members of the committee, I would like to express my **Support** of:

LD424-An Act Concerning the Concealed Carrying of a Handgun by an Individual Who Is 18 Years of Age but Under 21 Years of Age

This update to the law would simply align it to the Maine Constitution in that anyone 18 or older is able to exercise their rights under Constitutional Carry which was enacted in 2015. If someone is considered legally an adult at 18, can vote and fight for their country, they should also have the right to defend themselves.

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

This update to the law would simply align it to the Maine Constitution in that all Maine Citizens have a right to self defense in Maine State Parks. The requirement to have a Concealed Carry Permit goes against these rights. Constitutional Carry has been in effect for 10 years at this point, and the laws need to be updated. There have not been any significant issues with Constitutional Carry which is evidence that Maine Gun owners are responsible citizens that care about their rights and the beauty of Maine.

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

This update to the law will simply align the current law with the Maine Constitution. All Maine Citizens have the right to bear arms, which includes concealed carry with the now decade old Constitutional Carry law. It's time that any laws requiring a permit to exercise a right be updated.

A vehicle is an extension of personal property and should not be subject to the whims of an employer.

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

This update to the law will improve safety as the current requirement for Constitutional Carry is for a citizen to inform an officer any time there is an interaction such a traffic stop. While this may have appeared to be a good idea at the time, it reduces the safety for the officer and the person in the vehicle. Any time a weapon is mentioned, it can escalate the situation regardless of the fact that officers are trained to expect that anyone is armed.

This law is unnecessary and Constitutional Carry has shown to not be an issue.

Please vote Ought to Pass, and thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Martell

Sanford, ME