



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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March 26, 2025

*Testimony of Rep. Matthew Beck introducing*

## **LD 1109, An Act to Reduce Gun Violence Casualties in Maine by Prohibiting the Possession of Large-capacity Ammunition Feeding Devices**

*Before the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary*

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, my name is Matthew Beck, and I have the privilege of representing the people of House District 122, the easternmost section of South Portland.

I am here today to introduce **LD 1109, An Act to Reduce Gun Violence Casualties in Maine by Prohibiting the Possession of Large-capacity Ammunition Feeding Devices.**

As you can see for yourself in the bill summary:

- This bill makes possession of a large-capacity ammunition-feeding device a Class D crime.
- It provides that a person is guilty of possession of a large-capacity ammunition-feeding device if the person knowingly manufactures, imports, purchases, possesses, sells, offers or transfers ownership of a large-capacity ammunition feeding device
- It defines "large-capacity ammunition feeding device" to mean a magazine, belt, drum, box, tube, feed strip or similar device that has a capacity of, or that can be readily restored or converted to accept, more than 10 rounds of ammunition

Certain exemptions are also included in the bill, such as active duty members of the armed forces or National Guard who are authorized to carry large-capacity ammunition feeding devices. It also exempts federal and state law enforcement officers who are authorized to carry large-capacity ammunition feeding devices, whether on or off duty. Finally, it exempts a federally licensed firearm dealer temporarily transporting a large-capacity ammunition-feeding device through the State to be sold or transferred to a person outside of the State.

In the last week, I have had constructive dialogue with people who engage in recreational shooting competitions who believe they would be adversely affected by this bill. Prior to the

work session, I may submit an amendment to exempt those individuals if I can find a way to do so without totally undermining the intent of this bill.

From the Las Vegas Music Festival to the Pulse Night Club in Orlando, to Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, to Lewiston, Maine, the common denominator connecting these and dozens of other mass shootings in the United States is that the gunmen loaded their firearms with large capacity magazines. The result was nearly 1,000 dead and more than 1,000 injured.<sup>1</sup>

The American Public Health Association published a study in 2019 that found states without large capacity magazine bans (LCMs) had more high fatality mass shootings and higher death rates during those assaults during the study period. The report states: “Between 1990 and 2017, there were 69 high-fatality mass shootings. Attacks involving LCMs resulted in a 62% higher mean average death toll. The incidence of high-fatality mass shootings in non-LCM ban states was more than double the rate in LCM ban states; the annual number of deaths was more than 3 times higher.”<sup>2</sup>

I urge you to support LD 1109 to help reduce gun violence casualties in mass shootings. I’m happy to answer any questions you may have. If I am unable to answer them, I will try to get you the answers prior to the work session. Thank you.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://vpc.org/fact\\_sht/VPCshootinglist.pdf](https://vpc.org/fact_sht/VPCshootinglist.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/full/10.2105/AJPH.2019.305311>