

## **GUN OWNERS OF MAINE**

**DEFENDING GUN RIGHTS** 

## LD 1104: An Act to Limit the Liability of Persons Who Provide Firearm Hold Agreements LD 1174: An Act to Allow Gun Shops to Hold Firearms for Veterans of the United States Armed Forces and First Responders

## LD 1120: An Act to Promote Secure Storage of Firearms LD 1299: An Act to Prohibit the Unsecured Storage of Handguns in Motor Vehicles

With regard to LD's 1104 and 1174, Gun Owners of Maine is in favor of limiting liability for anyone who enters into a legal firearms hold agreement, so long as the participation is completely voluntary on both sides.

Regarding LD 1120: An Act to Promote Secure Storage of Firearms: Please evaluate the sign requirements. There is no specified font. There is no specification if the letters that are required to be one half inch tall is the lower or upper case version of said font. I am uncertain why it would be asserted that the notice be printed on "at least" an 8.5 x 11 inch piece of paper when clearly any font that is one half inch tall will take several pieces of paper to print what would be required. I would also assert that line 32 of page one is missing an Oxford comma.

I would ask you to consider if hardware stores are required to post similar warnings, as you are statistically more likely to be killed by a hammer, knife, etc, or someone's hands or feet than you are by any type of long gun.

Please review lines fourteen and fifteen of page three, as it relates to exceptions. It states here that the section does not apply if "the minor or prohibited person gains access to and uses the firearm during the course of a lawful act of self-defense or defense of another person..."

Help me to understand this. If a prohibited person uses a gun in self-defense, then the purported owner of said firearm (which cannot be traced because we do not have a gun registry) is no longer liable due to HOW the prohibited individual utilized the firearm? Truly, the more times I read this proposal, the more I shake my head with the sheer irrationality of it. We already have laws prohibiting the "negligent" storage of firearms. I'd urge you to vote ought **NOT** to pass on this solution looking for a problem.

Regarding LD 1299, An Act to Prohibit the Unsecured Storage of Handguns in Motor Vehicles: please vote ought **NOT** to pass and do not hold those being stolen from liable for the crimes of the thief.

On behalf of our membership and the Gun Owners of Maine Board of Directors,

Laura Whitcomb, President Gun Owners of Maine laura@gunownersofmaine.org

## Department of Health and Human Services

Department of Health and Human 34

Services

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