



Janet T. Mills  
Governor

Michael J. Sauschuck  
Commissioner

STATE OF MAINE  
*Department of Public Safety*  
**MAINE STATE POLICE**

45 Commerce Drive - Suite 1  
Augusta, Maine 04333



William Ross  
Colonel

LTC. Brian P. Scott  
Deputy Chief

Testimony of Lieutenant Mathew Casavant  
Maine State Police

**In Opposition (1009)**

An Act to Restore Full Civil Rights to Possess Firearms to Persons Previously Convicted of Certain  
Nonviolent Felony Crimes

Sponsored by Representative Perkins and Cosponsored by Senator Haggan  
Committee on Judiciary

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and other distinguished members of the joint standing committee on Judiciary, my name is Lieutenant Mathew Casavant, and I am here to represent the Maine State Police and the Maine Department of Public Safety to testify in opposition of LD 1009, "An Act to An Act to Restore Full Civil Rights to Possess Firearms to Persons Previously Convicted of Certain Nonviolent Felony Crimes."

This bill would allow people who have been convicted of certain firearm disqualifying crimes to submit a request to the Department of Public Safety to have their firearms rights restored. The Department of Public Safety is then required to review this person's criminal history to ensure the person is eligible to have their firearms rights restored. If the person is found to be eligible, the Department of Public Safety must then notify the court having jurisdiction over the crime for which the person was convicted in and restore the person's rights within the State of Maine but that same individual would still be federally prohibited from possessing firearms.

We also have concerns on how this bill will impact the National Instant Criminal Background Checks system, also known as NICS. The Maine State Police State Bureau of Identification (SBI) is tasked with submitting firearm prohibiting information to NICS. With this restoration of rights individuals would be able to make firearms purchases in Maine but not necessarily outside Maine. Each state is a little different in what they accept for restoration of rights. This could create confusion with individuals believing they can purchase and possess firearms again with no restrictions. Those who do attempt to purchase firearms are likely to be NICS delayed or denied initially and will have to wait for a review process. The Maine State Police will have to assist with this review.

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++ INTEGRITY ++ ++ FAIRNESS ++ ++ COMPASSION ++ ++ EXCELLENCE ++

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Without an increase in headcount, the Department of Public Safety doesn't have the capacity to fulfill the additional responsibilities that would result from this bill. The tasks will fall to the Maine State Police Weapons and Licensing Unit, which consists of a State Police Sergeant, a Detective and two Management Analysts. The Weapons and Professional Licensing Unit is already responsible for processing thousands of concealed handgun permits from 360 Maine Towns and all nonresident applications. There are statutory requirements regarding the processing of these permits that must be completed within a certain timeframe. Additionally, the Weapons and Licensing Unit is also responsible for processing licenses of all Private Investigators, Contract Security Companies and polygraphers in the State of Maine. Without additional headcount, shouldering the added responsibility this bill will require is unattainable.

On behalf of the State Police and the Department of Public Safety, we appreciate your careful consideration of these issues. Thank you for your time and we would be happy to answer any questions at this time.

Respectfully,

Lieutenant Mathew Casavant