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Michael J. Sauschuck
Commissioner

STATE OF MAINE
Department of Public Safety
MAINE STATE POLICE

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William Ross
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LTC. Brian P. Scott
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Testimony of Lieutenant Mathew Casavant
Maine State Police
In Opposition (1821)

An Act to Ensure Responsible Business Practices by Licensed Firearms Dealers

Sponsored by Representative Kuhn
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 1821, "An Act to Ensure Responsible Business Practices by Licensed Firearms Dealers."

The Maine Department of Public Safety and Maine State Police is opposed to LD 1821. There are over 500 federally licensed firearms dealers in the State of Maine. This bill would require the Department of Public Safety to create rules regarding security at FFL including identifying alarm systems to be used, site hardening, video surveillance, and other security measures. There are additional requirements surrounding training and vetting of employees of an FFL including DPS developing training for the FFL and tracking the training for each FFL. DPS would also be required to engage in rulemaking surrounding the maintenance of these records.

DPS would also be required to adopt rules authorizing and conducting inspections at FFL locations pursuant to records of compliance with the laws set forth in this bill. Many of the records described in this bill are already regulated by the ATF regulatory branch who issues and maintains rules for an FFL.

Without a significant 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.

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

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To effectively enforce the provisions in this bill there would need to be a significant increase in both sworn members and non-sworn members of the Maine State Police. Inspecting records and conducting visits to FFL is already a fulltime job of ATF regulatory and the Maine State Police would need to dedicate many members to focus on this work.

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 work with the sponsor and the committee at the work session.

Respectfully,

Lieutenant Mathew Casavant