



STATE OF MAINE
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LD 1526, An Act to Change the Permissible Hours and Penalties Pertaining to the Use of Consumer Fireworks

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus, and distinguished members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee, my name is Shawn Esler, and it is a privilege to serve as the State Fire Marshal. I write **neither for or against** LD 1526.

In preparation for my testimony, we conducted research on recent fireworks violations. In 2024, across the State there were no violations written by law enforcement on Title 8, Sec 223-A (8)(A) pertaining to discharging consumer fireworks after or before permissible hours. In 2024, across the State only one (1) civil violation written by law enforcement on Title 8, Sec 223-A (8)(B) pertaining to the discharge of consumer fireworks that likely occurred on a property without the consent of the owner.

The Fire Marshal's Office handled the following calls pertaining to fireworks in 2024.

Commercial Fireworks Violations	6
Commercial Fireworks Inspections	118
Fireworks Investigation	16
Fireworks Injuries Logged by EMS	17

While the Fire Marshal's Office regulates the sale and use of fireworks across the State, we would have no ability to effectively enforce the changes outlined in LD 1526. This bill would likely impact local law enforcement, State Police, and Sheriff's Offices responding to noise complaints regarding fireworks in their respective communities. For the purpose of discussion, State Police responded to approximately 230 noise complaints of the nearly 67,000 calls for service in 2024. This represents 0.34% of their annual calls for service. Likely only a few of the 230 were fireworks related, significantly lowering that percentage.

Thank you for your time today.

Shawn Esler, State Fire Marshal