



Pinny Beebe-Center
Senator, District 12

THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Testimony of Senator Pinny Beebe-Center Presenting

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

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety

May 5, 2025

Good afternoon Representative Hasenfus, and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety. My name is Pinny Beebe-Center, and I represent Senate District 12, which includes all of Knox County except for the Towns of Washington and Isle Au Haut. I am here today to present LD 1526, **"An Act to Change the Permissible Hours and Penalties Pertaining to the Use of Consumer Fireworks."**

I submitted this legislation on behalf of a constituent of mine, who had reached out because he was frustrated with the amount of fireworks that were constantly going off in my district over the summer. While I am one of countless people who enjoys a good fireworks show, I also understand that there is a time and place for these shows to happen, and there needs to be some guardrails put in place for not only our neighbors peace of mind, but also for everyone's safety.

This bill changes the permissible hours in which fireworks can be set off to between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. However, on the Fourth of July, New Year's Eve, and the weekends immediately before and after those holidays, fireworks may be set off between the hours of 9 a.m. and 12:30 a.m. These holidays are some that we typically associate with fireworks shows, so it makes sense to make the end time later. Having the end time be at 9 p.m. normally will prevent these shows from going on long into the night, disturbing our neighbor's, in particular, their children and pets.

This bill also states that a person may use consumer fireworks only on their property or on the property of a person who has consented to having fireworks being used on their property. Violating either of these rules will result in a fine of no less than \$100 and no more than \$1,000.

While I love a good fireworks show, we need to also be considerate of our neighbors. Some people have pets who may be frightened by fireworks constantly going off. Some of our neighbors may suffer from PTSD, and fireworks may trigger a PTSD response due to the loud explosions. I believe that these stipulations will help some of our neighbors have some peace of mind, and prevent long fireworks shows from going into the night, disturbing people's sleep.

I thank you all for your time and consideration. I will do my best to answer what question you may have.