

Gene Clifford
Mount Desert

Dear Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee Member,

I live in Mount Desert, Maine, and I am writing to urge you to oppose LD 1138 (HP0816), "An Act To Ensure the Right to Self-defense Exists outside the Home by Removing the Requirement To Retreat."

The RAND Corporation published a research initiative "Gun Policy in America 2018" (<https://www.rand.org/research/gun-policy.html>) which concluded that there was "moderate" evidence -- the second strongest level of evidence -- that "stand your ground" laws are associated with an increase in homicides.

At least 4 additional studies meeting RAND's standards of rigor (according to RAND) have confirmed that "stand your ground" laws increase homicides, while none have found that "stand your ground" laws prevent violent crime (<https://www.rand.org/blog/2019/09/stand-your-ground-laws-increase-violence.html>).

Please do the right thing for Maine and see to it that LD1138 is thrown in the trash!

Gene Clifford