



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Senator Deschambault, Representative Warren and honorable members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee - My name is John Andrews and I represent the towns of Buckfield, Hebron and Paris in western Maine. I am here today present my bill LD 1052, 'An Act To Protect the Firearm Use and Possession Rights of Maine Citizens during an Emergency'.

LD 1052 seeks to protect our natural rights in statute to 'Defend Life' and 'Obtain Safety' as stated in Article 1: Section 1 of the Maine state constitution:

Article 1 Declaration of Rights

Section 1: Natural Rights

'All people are born equally free and independent, and have certain natural, inherent and unalienable rights, among which are those of enjoying and DEFENDING LIFE and liberty, acquiring, possessing and protecting property and of pursuing and OBTAINING SAFETY and happiness.'

As written out in Article 1 : Section 1 of the Maine state constitution all Mainers have a natural right to defend their lives and to protect their property. They also have a Federal Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms. In Maine, Article 1 : Section 16 of the state constitution says that in Maine "That right shall never be questioned."

This is especially true during a State of Emergency Declaration. The government has no right or authority to infringe upon the rights of the citizenry or to disenfranchise them from their Constitutionally protected access to firearms. Federal Firearms Licensed retailers are essential businesses and no bureaucrat, regardless of title, should ever be able to shut them down again in the state of Maine.

Governments only exist at the consent of the governed and Mainers demand that their access to firearms shall not be infringed - especially during times of crisis like a state of emergency.

LD 1052 declares that that the transport, storage, sale and transfer and other activities involving firearms, ammunition and components and accessories are considered essential businesses and services during a state of emergency declared by the Governor. Furthermore, it prohibits the regulation, curtailment, seizure or other actions to restrict otherwise lawfully owned and possessed firearms, ammunition and related components, accessories and related activities during a state of emergency.

LD 1052 also provides protections to those who possess a Concealed Carry License as it suspends the expiration date for concealed handgun permits for the duration of a state of emergency.

People of all backgrounds and political persuasions have been buying and training with firearms over the last several years. This is due to many factors, but the biggest is that people recognize the need and natural right to self-defense. They recognize this need in their daily lives and especially when their daily lives are interrupted by times of disaster and emergency.

You either believe that your constituents have a natural right to defend themselves and their families or you don't. Voting 'Ought Not To Pass' against LD 1052 will show the voters in your District that you do not respect their right to keep and bear arms to protect themselves and their families during times of crisis. I would urge you to vote 'Ought to Pass' to allow Maine citizens access to their FFL's and to recognize and respect their right to keep and bear arms, especially in times of emergency.

Thank you for your time and commitment to public service.

Respectfully,

John Andrews
State Representative