



CITY OF PORTLAND

To: Members of Criminal Justice & Public Safety Committee
From: Frank Clark, *Police Chief*
Date: May 3, 2021
RE: Testimony in regards to LD 1454

Senator Deschambault, Representative Warren and distinguished members of the Committee on Criminal Justice & Public Safety: On behalf of the City of Portland, I am offering our support for LD 1454, *An Act To Prohibit Untraceable and Undetectable Firearms*.

The bill before you seeks to restrict and limit the use, sale and possession of untraceable and undetectable firearms, sometimes referred to as “Ghost Guns.”

These are essentially self-assembled firearms, often built from parts or kits sold online. They are not legally required, under existing laws, to have a serial number or any other form of identification. This, and the concern that some may evade security measures, is what essentially renders them untraceable (and is where they get their nickname). The purchase and sale of these kits and, for example, 3D-printer blueprints, allows anyone, including convicted felons, domestic abusers, and other prohibited persons to get their hands on a firearm, legally. Then, if used in a crime, they are untraceable to the weapon’s past owners.

From a law enforcement perspective, such firearms, when in the hands of those who cannot lawfully possess them, pose an increased risk to public safety. Serial numbers on firearms (and other property) are also often used by law enforcement to help identify the last known owner of firearms found at a crime scene, or used in the commission of a crime. Losing this investigative capacity, given the influx of the use of such firearms in other parts of the country, would be yet another concern that we should consider getting ahead of here in Maine.

While I will support and protect the Constitutional rights of all of our citizens to *lawfully* possess a firearm, these particular firearms do raise safety and law enforcement concerns, both of which should be debated during your consideration of this bill.

In summary, I ask that you vote in support of LD 1454. Thank you for your time and consideration.