

Thank you...My name is Lynn Ellis... I am here to speak in support of LD 1454.

A ghost gun is a DIY, homemade gun made from readily available, unregulated building blocks. It is produced by an individual rather than by an ATF-licensed manufacturer or importer. Most ghost guns are made from “unfinished” frames and receivers. Unfinished frames and receivers are often marketed as “80%” complete, meaning a buyer needs to do only 20 percent of the work for the frame or receiver to be assembled into an operable firearm. The difference between an unfinished frame or receiver and a finished, ready-to-use frame or receiver is a few tools and a couple of hours of work.

But that small difference means everything: The unfinished frame or receiver has no serial number and can be sold without a background check. Convicted felons, violent domestic abusers, and other people who are legally prohibited from purchasing firearms can avoid a background check and access guns by buying unfinished frames and receivers and other parts and kits available online that easily enable them to finish the frames or receivers and convert them into functional firearms.

LD 1454 prohibits the manufacture, possession, assembly, import, sale or transfer of untraceable and undetectable firearms in Maine. These are guns that are either downloadable online and can be made at home, not able to be detected by metal detectors, or most importantly assembled through the purchase of an unfinished frame or receiver.

Online sellers have packaged the unfinished frame or receiver with all the other parts needed to complete the firearm and include instructional videos with easy-to-follow steps. These sellers are now one-stop shops for any person to get the building blocks, tools, and information to construct a fully operational ghost gun.

I urge you to support LD 1454.