

OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS

Date: May 16, 2021
To: Joint Standing Committee on Health & Human Services
From: Erin Dooling, Esq., Legislative Analyst

LD 1392 An Act Directing the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention To Release Annually Public Health Data Regarding Certain Fatalities and Hospitalizations

SUMMARY: This bill requires the Director of the Maine CDC to include in the CDC's annual report to the Legislature, with the assistance of the Commissioner of Public Safety public health data concerning firearm fatalities separated by:

- Homicides, including the number of domestic violence homicides, suicides and accidents, and
- The ages of the victims of each category, and the type, make and model of the firearm used; and
- Hospitalizations that occurred as a result of a firearm that did not result in death and the type, make and model of firearm used.

The report must be publicly available.

ISSUES / SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS FROM TESTIMONY:

- *Maine Hospital Association:* Requests that
 - The CDC be directed to rely on data from the Maine Health Data Organization (MHDO) for the information about hospitalizations that did not result in death; and that
 - The requirement to identify the type, make and model of weapon be removed
- *Department of Public Safety, Maine State Police:*
 - Only homicide data is collected in the Uniform Crime Reports (the collection standards are set by the FBI)

- There is no centralized repository from law enforcement in Maine where data on suicides, accidents and hospitalizations can be compiled nor are there set data collection standards
- Police reports often will not have standardized data regarding hospitalization information
- In order to establish a centralized repository it would need to be built and maintained

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REQUESTED BY COMMITTEE:

- *Submitted to DHHS:* Please provide information on Maine Injury Prevention and whether the CDC is still capturing this data
- Requested that MHDO be at the work session
- Mandatory reporting requirement for treatment of a gunshot wound ([17-A M.R.S. § 512](#))
- More information about the Dickey Amendment
 - [P.L. 104-208 \(1996\)](#): “*Provided further*, That none of the funds made available for injury prevention and control at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention may be used to advocate or promote gun control;”

FISCAL IMPACT: Not yet determined