



**Maine Chiefs of Police Association**  
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**Statement in opposition to**

**L.D. 1049, An Act to Eliminate the Duty to Inform a Law Enforcement Officer When Carrying a Concealed Handgun Without a Permit**

**Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety**

**March 26, 2025**

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and honorable members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Jason Moen. I am the Chief of the Auburn Police Department, and President of the Maine Chiefs of Police Association. I am submitting testimony on behalf of the Maine Chiefs of Police Association in opposition to LD 1049.

The mission of the Maine Chiefs of Police Association is to secure a closer official and personal relationship among Maine Police Officials; to secure a unity of action in law enforcement matters; to enhance the standards of police personnel, police training and police professionalism generally; to devise ways and means for equality of law enforcement throughout the state of Maine; to advance the prevention and detection of crime; to prescribe to the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics; and to promote the profession of law enforcement as an integral and dedicated force in today's society sworn to the protection of life and property.

Maine allows any individual who is at least 21 years of age and otherwise not prohibited from possessing firearms to carry a concealed handgun in public without a permit. When purchasing a firearm, they must also sign in front of a firearms dealer and retain an acknowledgment that they received an approved safety brochure. Persons carrying a concealed firearm without a permit must inform a law enforcement officer that they are carrying a concealed handgun if they are arrested or stopped by that officer for a violation. This proposal aims to repeal that final requirement.

There are many valid reasons for law enforcement officers to know if an individual without a permit is carrying a concealed weapon. All these reasons center around public safety.

A Maine concealed handgun permit holder must demonstrate knowledge of handgun safety by completing an approved handgun safety course before applying for a permit. Those persons carrying without a permit usually do not have the necessary hands-on training in gun safety, handling, and conflict resolution.

The requirement of notification applies during any arrest, detention, or routine traffic stop by a law enforcement officer. For example, a law enforcement officer may detain an individual for a traffic violation or suspected criminal conduct. If that law enforcement officer is unaware that an individual is armed with a firearm and only finds out part way through the interaction, it changes the atmosphere and can lead to an escalated situation. By informing law enforcement at the onset of an arrest, detention, or contact, officers can better assess the situation at hand and proceed in a manner that keeps them, the individual, and the public safe.

For these reasons, the Maine Chiefs of Police Association opposes the passage this legislation. We ask the committee to vote Ought Not to Pass on LD 1049.