

Benjamin Staples
Windham, ME
LD 1049

I write in strong support of LD 1049, “An Act to Eliminate the Duty to Inform a Law Enforcement Officer When Carrying a Concealed Handgun Without a Permit.”

Under Maine’s constitutional carry laws, law-abiding individuals are not required to obtain a permit to carry a concealed firearm. However, despite this recognition of personal rights, current law still mandates that these individuals proactively inform law enforcement if they are carrying during an interaction. LD 1049 eliminates this unnecessary requirement, reinforcing individual privacy and reducing legal risks for responsible gun owners.

Law enforcement officers are trained to assume that any individual they encounter may be armed. The existing duty to inform does not enhance officer safety but instead places an additional burden on lawful carriers, potentially creating confusion or escalating routine encounters. Additionally, requiring individuals to disclose that they are armed—without being asked—unfairly exposes them to potential legal pitfalls, even when they are fully compliant with the law.

Rather than imposing an unnecessary obligation on gun owners, LD 1049 ensures that interactions between law enforcement and citizens remain focused on the situation at hand. Officers would still have the ability to ask about the presence of a firearm when appropriate, but lawful carriers would no longer be put in a position where they might inadvertently complicate an encounter by volunteering information that is not legally required.

This bill brings Maine’s laws in line with the intent of constitutional carry, eliminating an outdated and unnecessary obligation. I urge the committee to support and pass LD 1049, affirming the rights of Maine citizens and ensuring fair, practical firearm regulations.