

Danny Emerson
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LD 208

I support LD 208 “An Act to Eliminate the 72-hour Waiting Period on Firearm Purchases.”

Waiting periods jeopardize the lives of the law-abiding and have already hurt small businesses in our state. Once a background check is passed, imposing an arbitrary waiting period could be the difference between life and death for someone looking to leave a domestic violence situation. Waiting periods have imposed a significant burden on gun shows in our state, and could shutter small businesses who depend on traveling patrons for their livelihood.

The ability to protect yourself and your loved ones has never been more important. It is well documented that police response times are rising across the country, and in Maine, for a variety of factors. If a violent intruder breaks into a home, a 72-hour waiting period could be the difference between life and death.

The mandatory 72-hour waiting period is an attack on law-abiding Maine citizens, and a direct violation of our Maine Constitutional rights, specifically Article 1, Section 16: “To keep and bear arms. Every citizen has a right to keep and bear arms and this right shall never be questioned.”

The Governor allowed the law to take effect without her signature. I’m sure because she knew it was unconstitutional. As a matter of fact, there’s a lawsuit naming Attorney General of Maine Aaron Frey as the defendant contesting this waiting period. Of course, us taxpayers have to pay for it. And, I do believe the plaintiffs are likely to succeed on the merits of the case.

I support LD 208 “An Act to Eliminate the 72-hour Waiting Period on Firearm Purchases”, and it “ought to pass.”