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LD 1743

I oppose LD 1473 “An Act to Allow Municipalities to Prohibit Firearms Within Their Municipal Buildings and Voting Places and at Their Municipal Public Proceedings.”

Here we go again, another attempt at unconstitutional gun control. Another 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.” This is a solution looking for a problem that Maine does not have. Maine is the safest state in the nation. I oppose any bill intending to strip Maine citizens of our Constitutional rights.

The last thing that Mainers need is a New York style ban on carrying self-defense guns while voting.

Maine Statute Title 25: INTERNAL SECURITY AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Part 5: PUBLIC SAFETY

Chapter 252-A: FIREARMS REGULATION

§2011. State preemption

1. Preemption. The State intends to occupy and preempt the entire field of legislation concerning the regulation of firearms, components, ammunition and supplies. Except as provided in subsection 3, any existing or future order, ordinance, rule or regulation in this field of any political subdivision of the State is void.

There’s a reason for this. The developers of this statute did not want municipalities throughout the state initiating a patchwork of firearm laws. Consistency and uniformity is key. This bill looks to destroy consistency and uniformity.

Mainers have a long track record of carrying and using firearms in a responsible and safe manner. So law-abiding Maine residents should not be forced to choose which civil right they will exercise -- the right to vote or the right to be armed. Because both of these rights are guaranteed by the Maine and US Constitutions, LD 1473 is as repugnant as a poll tax. It is the epitome of voter suppression.

With that being said, LD 1743 is another reconstituted attempt at previously defeated gun control (i.e. 131st Maine Legislature, LD 1255, “An Act to Improve the Security of Voting Places.”

I oppose unconstitutional LD 1473, and it “ought not to pass.”