

LD 411 -An Act to Amend the Law Governing the Disposition of Forfeited Firearms

Memorandum of Opposition

Date: May 01, 2025

To: Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee Members,

From: Jonathan Martell

RE: LD 411 -An Act to Amend the Law Governing the Disposition of Forfeited Firearms

Members of the committee, I would like to express my Opposition of LD 411 -An Act to Amend the Law Governing the Disposition of Forfeited Firearms

My Name is Jonathan Martell, from Sanford.

I am a currently serving Sanford City Councilor, Lifetime member of the Gun Owners of Maine, Legislative Officer for the Sanford Springvale Fish and Game Club, NRA Range Safety Officer, and lifelong firearms enthusiast.

This is the same bill that failed in 2024 under LD2086

While this bill summary purports to fix issues with the law, it actually does the opposite. Instead of the legal owner of the firearm simply being required to have a right to possess the firearm, it changes the language to specify that the firearm had to have been stolen.

How is this fair to the owner who is not involved in any way? Now the owner must prove that the firearm was in fact stolen. That firearm could have belonged to a grandfather or uncle who let the juvenile use it for hunting. How is it decided that it was stolen? There is no language regarding how that is determined.

The citizens have a right to their property and to receive it back if it is used in a crime for which they had no involvement. The current law allows for that. The changes add unnecessary language and hurdles for anyone attempting to retrieve their rightful property.

Most people have a strong respect for law enforcement and due process under the law. This is creating a serious injustice for which the innocent are punished by having their hard earned or very sentimental property destroyed for no reason.

I ask that you keep the current language intact and vote no for these proposed amendments.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Martell
Sanford, ME

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LD 411

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