



## **Testimony in Support of LD 631:**

"An Act to Allow a Home Distiller to Distill and Share Homemade Spirituous Liquor"

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and the distinguished members of the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs, my name is Harris Van Pate and I serve as policy analyst for Maine Policy Institute. Maine Policy is a free market think tank, a nonpartisan, non-profit organization that advocates for individual liberty and economic freedom in Maine. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of LD 631, "An Act to Allow a Home Distiller to Distill and Share Homemade Spirituous Liquor."

### **Empowering Individual Liberty and Personal Responsibility**

LD 631 seeks to permit individuals to produce distilled spirits for personal use, allowing them to share their creations with family and friends. This legislation aligns with the principles of individual liberty and personal responsibility, recognizing the right of citizens to engage in lawful, private activities within their own homes.

### **Economic and Cultural Benefits**

Maine can foster a culture of innovation and craftsmanship by legalizing home distillation for personal use. This change has the potential to:

- **Stimulate Local Economies by Purchasing Supplies:** Enthusiasts may experiment with local ingredients, supporting Maine's agriculture and small businesses through their purchases.
- **Encourage Entrepreneurship:** Hobbyists gaining experience may choose to enter the commercial market, contributing to economic growth and job creation.

### **Learning from Other States**

Several states have embraced similar legislation, providing valuable insights:

- **Legal Precedents:** States like Massachusetts and Arizona have enacted laws permitting home distillation for personal use, leading to positive outcomes without significant legal issues.<sup>1</sup>
- **Regulatory Frameworks:** These states have implemented clear guidelines ensuring safety and compliance, serving as models for Maine.

### **Addressing Safety and Regulatory Concerns**

While supporting this initiative, it is crucial to address potential concerns:

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<sup>1</sup> <https://worldpopulationreview.com/state-rankings/moonshine-legal-states>



- **Safety Measures:** Educating hobbyists on safe distillation practices can mitigate risks associated with improper production.
- **Preventing Illegal Distribution:** Strict prohibitions on selling homemade spirits will help maintain control and avoid unregulated distribution.

## **Conclusion**

LD 631 represents a balanced approach to expanding personal freedoms while ensuring public safety. By allowing home distillation for personal use, Maine honors the principles of individual liberty, supports local economies, and joins other states in embracing responsible legislative progress.

We urge the Committee to support LD 631 and recommend its passage. Thank you for your consideration.