



Gun Owners of Maine News Bulletin

March 2019

GUN BILLS START TO ROLL IN

Anti-Gun Legislative Forces on the Move

As expected, a number of dangerous anti-gun bills are now beginning their journey through the legislative process. Now that the language of these bills is available, we have summarized each bill below.

None of these bills have yet been scheduled for a public hearing, but we expect that hearings are likely to occur in mid-April. Stay tuned to the Facebook group, or use the Bill Tracker on our the web site to keep up-to-date on these bills:

gunownersofmaine.org/billtracking

LD 516, *An Act To Establish a Statewide Voluntary Firearm Collection Day and Ongoing Program*, (Rep. Heidi Brooks), would direct the Commissioner of Public Safety to expend taxpayer resources to establish a needless annual statewide gun-turn-in day as well as a year-round gun turn-in program.

LD 747, *An Act To Promote the Safe Use and Sale of Firearms*, (Rep. Barbara Cardone), is a bill to implement Universal Background Checks via the backdoor by making it a crime to **innocently and unknowingly** transfer any firearm to a prohibited person, unless you “voluntarily” have the transfer processed through a licensed dealer and complete Federal paperwork.

The Time to Support Gun Rights Is *Right Now*

Mainers are fortunate to live in a place where they enjoy some of the best firearms laws in the country. Gun Owners of Maine has helped make it that way, and helps keep it that way. But the reality is that, even for a grassroots organization like us, it takes resources to carry out our mission to defend and extend gun rights. Today, our gun rights are under open and vicious attack from many directions at once. We survive on the support of gun owners like yourself, for whom your gun rights are too valuable to leave to someone else's generosity. Paid memberships, donations and raffle ticket sales are all important forms of support for our work. Please consider supporting us, so we can continue to defend and extend our gun rights, and pass them along to the next generation.

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LD 810, *An Act To Require Background Checks for All Private Firearm Sales or Transfers Except between Family Members*, (Sen. David Miramant) is a rehash of the Universal Background Check bill so recently voted down by Mainers as Question 3, outlawing most private transfers of firearms between individuals.

LD 1033, *An Act To Protect Children from Accidental Injury Due to Unsafe Storage of Firearms*, (Rep. Anne Perry) is a bill which would prescribe that in any place where anyone under the age of 18 resides, all modern firearms must be either carried on your person or secured in a locked container at all times, **including unloaded and inoperable** firearms.

LD 1071, *An Act To Prohibit the Sale of High-capacity Magazines*, (Rep. Barbara Cardone) would criminalize the sale of any firearm magazine with a capacity greater

than 10 rounds.

LD 1099, *An Act To Reduce Suicides and Violent Crimes by Requiring a 72-hour Waiting Period after the Sale of a Firearm*, (Sen. Everett Carson) would impose a mandatory 72-hour waiting period before a firearm may be delivered to a purchaser, regardless of whether the purchaser owns other firearms or holds a concealed handgun permit.

LD 1312, *An Act Regarding Access to Firearms by Extremely Dangerous and Suicidal Individuals*, (Sen. Rebecca Millet) is itself an extremely dangerous bill, granting police the power to confiscate an individual's firearms based on unsubstantiated allegations, and without affording the person any prior notice or opportunity to face their accuser or defend themselves. This bill would strip all meaningful due process away from gun owners, and leave the door wide open to abuse.

Pro-Gun Bills Advance

Rep. Patrick Corey's LD 79, *An Act To Protect Shooting Ranges*, advanced with a unanimous Ought to Pass report out of committee, and has passed initial votes in both the House and Senate.

LD 79 is a response to a property owner who built a small structure on property adjoining an active shooting range, within 100 yards of the range, for the sole purpose of shutting down the range. This bill exempts established shooting ranges that existed prior to the erection of such a building.

Rep. Corey's LD 85, *An Act To Establish a Sales Tax Exemption and an Income Tax Deduction for the Purchase of Firearm Safety Devices*, also received an Ought to Pass as Amended report out of committee, and will now go to the House and Senate for votes. This bill exempts firearm safes and lockboxes from sales tax, and provides an income tax deduction of up to \$250 for the purchase of same.

All Politics is Local, and So Are We

Gun Owners of Maine members and volunteers have been forming local groups all over the State. This is an exciting evolution of our grassroots tradition that we believe will draw in more like-minded people and help us be more effective both on the local and Statewide level.

Local groups will be critical in focusing constituent pressure on Legislators, generating turnout at Legislative hearings, and if worst comes to worst, gathering signatures for Peoples Vetoes of anti-gun bills.

Find a local group near you at gunownersofmaine.org/local.

Time To Fight

By Jeff Zimba

It should be clear after reading the front side of this very paper, that we have a busy few months in front of us. There are threats coming to usurp our Second Amendment, and Article 1, Section 16 right in this very legislature. It's easy for us to look at our winning record and exclaim those will never pass, but unfortunately it may also not be the truth. The makeup of the legislature combined with a new governor takes all of our previous safeguards away. Therefore, if we do not take them seriously, we will certainly find ourselves on the losing end fast.

We are fortunate that people are waking up and joining in this important fight. There are gatherings, meetings, and rallies on an almost regular basis these days. The true power of our massive grassroots network has still yet to be realized though we are going to need its full force very soon in a focused way.

Very soon the hearings will be starting at the State House where these bills will be discussed. This is our single most important opportunity to participate in the system not only to stop bills we consider dangerous but to assist bills we know as important in moving forward. You will see a few urgent calls to action coming up in reference to these hearings. These are an all-hands-on-deck situation where we need to gather as many of us as possible and fill the legislature on these days.

Participation in these hearings can make or break legislation moving forward. It's not only important to testify but simply showing up in support, or in opposition is equally important. Unlike those who

opposed the reality we live in, we are not bussed in in great numbers from surrounding urban areas, we are not provided a paycheck to be there for the day, we do not have any fancy receptions that follow, nor do we have a paid meal. We are simply there at our own expense to help the Legislature understand these important issues. We live in Maine, work in Maine, and raise our families in Maine, and we will not be dictated to by billionaires from large Southern cities.

We anticipate that the list of pending legislation on the opposite side may change in some capacity. There are bound to be more bills than listed, as well as changes to or even dropping of some of those on the front. There will certainly be no shortage of opportunity to voice our opinion about our right to self-preservation. If you can testify, please prepare a speech of *No More Than 3 minutes*, shorter is better, and bring 25 copies to the State House. Again, if you cannot or would rather not speak your attendance is still extremely important anyway, both to support those who do testify, and to demonstrate to the legislators our numbers and resolve..

Gun Owners of Maine is a non-profit, volunteer organization which advocates to defend and extend gun rights in Maine and beyond.

