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background check makes a mistake and denies or delays you, as it does over 60,000 times a year to law-abiding citizens, you may not get your gun back.

You may hear that this law has exceptions for hunting, for example, but do not be taken in: the text of the exception is very narrow, and only applies to handing a gun to a fellow hunter while actually out in the field, actively engaged in hunting. Loan that rifle to your neighbor the night before, and you have committed a crime. The other exceptions in the law are similarly narrow and misleading.

While the anti-gunners say this law is needed to keep guns out of the hands of criminals, the Federal government's own data shows that few criminals obtain guns through private sales; far more -- nearly half, in fact -- acquire them through background-checked dealer sales, by sending a person with a clean record to buy the gun. ***The real reason Bloomberg wants this law is that it is the key step toward mandatory gun registration.*** In fact, there's no way this law can be enforced *without* gun registration.

Universal background checks are the law in places like New York, and they don't work. In Washington State, where this same law was passed in 2014, citizens are ignoring the law en masse.

Don't be fooled into thinking that Universal Background Checks are a good idea -- ***it is a law designed to fail***, in order to justify the next step on the anti-gunner's agenda: universal registration.

It's a failed New York solution to a problem Maine doesn't have.

Help us fight this offensive out-of-state effort at checkbook lawmaking, and join Gun Owners of Maine online at www.gunownersofmaine.org/join .

Big Wins in Concealed Carry

With the support of Gun Owners of Maine, ***Maine has become the nation's newest Constitutional Carry state.*** Thanks to legislation sponsored by Sen. Eric Brakey, Maine joins the ranks of Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Kansas, Wyoming, and our New England neighbor Vermont.

Under the new law, Mainers -- or those from out-of-state -- may carry a concealed handgun if they are 21 years of age or older (or 18+ and active-duty or honorably discharged US Military) and are not otherwise prohibited from possessing or carrying a firearm. That's it; if you can legally own a handgun, you can carry your handgun concealed.

Training is still important, even though it is no longer required under the new law. Gun Owners of Maine has a free online training course available at www.safer-maine.org; we strongly encourage anyone wishing to take advantage of your restored freedom to take this course.

Maine still issues and renews Concealed Handgun Permits -- they haven't gone away, and there are still many good reasons to get or keep a permit. It's just not required any more.

For those *with* a permit, ***the States of New Hampshire, Georgia and Florida now recognize Maine Concealed Handgun Permits!*** With your Maine resident permit, you may now carry a concealed handgun in NH, GA, and FL. This is as a result of a new law, supported by Gun Owners of Maine, which opens up the criteria for Maine's reciprocal recognition of carry permits. NH, GA and FL resident permits are now recognized by Maine, as well.

The lack of reciprocity with our only bordering state has long been a particular irritant for Maine concealed carriers, and it is fitting that reciprocity with NH is the first fruit of the new law.

Suppressor Hunting Now Legal in Maine

Firearm suppressors, or silencers, are more popular than ever. Now, with the passage of legislation supported by Gun Owners of Maine, suppressor hunting is finally legal in Maine, as it is in 34 other states.

Suppressor hunting protects hearing, makes hunting safer, and reduces noise complaints.

A suppressor hunting permit from IF&W is required. The application is available from their web site at:

http://www.maine.gov/ifw/licenses_permits/forms_applications.htm

Range Protection, Firearms Non-discrimination Pass House & Senate

Two Gun Owners of Maine-backed bills have been approved by the Legislature and await final procedural votes before being sent to the Governor to be signed into law. LD 1500 protects existing shooting ranges from nuisance lawsuits and unfair municipal efforts to close them. LD 1572 prohibits landlords who receive Federal rent subsidies from denying their tenants the right to possess firearms.

Both of these bills are great victories for Maine gun owners and for their gun rights.

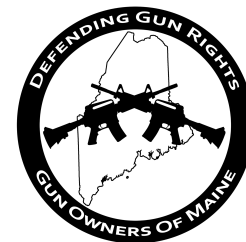
Gun Owners of Maine, Inc. is a volunteer, grassroots Maine nonprofit corporation dedicated to preserving and protecting the right of the people to keep and bear arms, and assists members and nonmembers alike in locating training and educational resources to further responsible firearms handlings and ownership. Gun Owners of Maine is a nonpartisan citizen activist group and does not endorse any political group.

***Help support our mission to defend and extend gun rights.
Join us at www.gunownersofmaine.org***

Gun Owners of Maine NEWS

www.gunownersofmaine.org

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Billionaire Bloomberg Buys Berth on Ballot

Moms Demand Action, the New York billionaire Michael Bloomberg's anti-gun astroturf organization, has succeeded in placing a question on Maine's November ballot which would outlaw most private firearms transfers and turn ordinary citizens into criminals.

Utilizing his bottomless checkbook, the New York billionaire poured money into Maine (at least \$750,000 as of the end of 2015) to purchase a place on Maine's ballot, reportedly using out-of-state petition circulators to illegally obtain enough signatures to qualify for the ballot.

Posing as a grassroots movement of Mainers, this campaign is in fact almost completely funded and managed by out-of-state interests; only about \$500 in total contributions to the campaign have come from Mainers.

Worse, this misleadingly-written and ambiguous law would criminalize ordinary and traditional behavior, like selling a gun to a friend, or loaning a gun to a neighbor to go hunting. In order to comply with the law, you and your friend or neighbor would have to go to a licensed dealer, fill out Federal paperwork, undergo an FBI background check, and pay a fee before you could turn over your firearm. ***But, wait! That's not all.*** You'll have to do it all over again before your gun can be returned to you. And if the FBI