



# Gun Owners of Maine News Bulletin

May 2017

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: GUN BILLS

### Mostly Good News, But Threats Remain

The Maine Legislature has been at work for a few months now, and Gun Owners of Maine has been tracking and working on a number of bills; 17 bills directly related to gun rights, and 3 additional bills of interest.

The current status of each bill can always be viewed online at [gunownersofmaine.org/billtracking](http://gunownersofmaine.org/billtracking).

#### *Good News*

The bills which are heading in the right direction so far are as follows:

**LD 9**, which would prohibit any Maine government entity from establishing a registry of firearms or firearms owners, was reported out of committee on a majority Ought to Pass report. It will now head to the House and Senate chamber for votes with that recommendation.

**LD 350**, which repeals the little-known but dangerous law which requires every firearms dealer to provide a copy of the Federal Form 4473 to any law enforcement official upon demand and without warrant or due process, was reported out of committee as Ought to Pass.

**LD 352**, which would have required every firearm sold by a dealer to be sold along with a California-approved gun lock. This bill

### ATF Reverses Position on Pistol Stabilizing Arm Braces

The Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives has reversed its infamous decision which held that shouldering a pistol stabilizing arm brace, such as the popular SB Tactical product, constituted a “redesign” of the firearm which transformed it into an unregistered NFA short-barreled rifle.

In an open letter released in late April, ATF has termed its previous guidance “confusing”, and has clarified that the manner in which a brace-equipped pistol is used *does not* constitute a redesign, and does not transform the firearm into an NFA-regulated item.

is now dead.

**LD 443**, a bill which would have allowed municipally-funded hospitals to be exempted from the State preemption law and become gun-free zones is now dead.

**LD 501**, which would have required that every person purchasing any firearm -- whether from a dealer or in a private transaction -- provide the seller with written proof of having completed a firearms safety training course. This bill is now dead.

**LD 693**, a bill which clarifies that the prohibition on loaded long guns in vehicles applies only while engaged in hunting, has received a heavily favorable 10-1 Ought to Pass vote in committee.

**... And, Best of All, LD 1154**, Rep. Owen Casas’ attempt to resurrect Universal Background Checks, also known as Question 3, which was just defeated by Maine voters last November, is now dead, withdrawn by the sponsor after vigorous opposition by Gun Owners of Maine, Sportsman’s Alliance of Maine, and the National Rifle Association, working in concert to defeat the most dangerous gun bill introduced this year.

#### *But Not All Is Good*

**LD 44 & LD 598**, bills which would have lowered the age for permitless carry to 18, as originally intended before a last-minute floor amendment in the last Legislature, did not receive a warm reception

in committee. Bolstered by a strong turnout from Moms Demand Action and other anti-gun forces, the committee killed the bill.

**LD 351**, a bill which would weaken Maine State preemption of local firearms regulation and permit municipalities to ban firearms from meetings and polling places, received a divided report. This is a dangerous bill, and part of a multi-pronged effort to tear down the preemption law. We will need to make sure this bill is defeated in the House or the Senate.

**LD 574**, a bill which would have removed the “shall-notify” provision of the permitless carry law met with resistance in committee and was killed.

**LD 595**, a bill which would have placed certain limits on the ability of state and local law enforcement to confiscate firearms in support of Federal orders, was killed.

**LD 1175**, Sen. Mark Dion’s “Gun Violence Restraining Order” bill, is a part of a coordinated national effort to pass similar legislation in numerous states. It amounts to a gun confiscation scheme in which a court can order the immediate surrender or sale of all firearms belonging to an individual on the basis of a law enforcement officer’s assertion that the person is a danger to himself or others. The bill is not yet reported out, but it is unlikely the committee will kill it outright, so we must be prepared to fight hard to defeat this in the House and Senate. This is the most dangerous anti-gun bill in play at this time.

**LD 1370**, a “Campus Carry” bill, received extensive testimony in opposition in public hearing, in front of the unfriendly Education Committee, where the bill had been assigned on an unusual roll call vote

in the House. An unfavorable report is likely.

### *Up in the Air*

**LD 988**, a bill which would permit individuals to have a firearm in a motor vehicle while picking up or dropping off student at school, is scheduled for committee work session on May 11.

**LD 1469**, a bill to discourage gun-free zones by making those who create such zones responsible for the safety of those who are disarmed as a result, heads to committee work session May 8.

### *It Only Works If You Help*

As you can see by this list -- which may still to continue to grow -- there are a lot of bills that we need to pay close attention to, supporting the good ones and opposing the bad ones. Gun Owners of Maine is a grassroots gun rights organization; that means that our power and effectiveness comes from you. We need you to add your individual voice to the chorus of other Maine gun owners. We can keep you informed of developments on these bills, and when your action -- phone calls, emails, maybe even showing up in Augusta for a hearing -- is needed, but we need to you take action. If we each make that call, or send that email, or show up at an important event, we can not only successfully defend our gun rights, but we can continue to extend them.

We have shown, time and again, that the political power of the Maine gun owner is formidable. Please help us stay strong in the face of the constant threats from those who would extinguish our gun rights.

Stay connected to us by joining the Gun Owners of Maine Facebook group, or sign up for email alerts on

our web site at <http://www.gunownersofmaine.org/getalerts> . If you’d like to support us in a more tangible form, consider becoming a supporting member by joining at <http://www.gunownersofmaine.org/join> .

Thank you, Together, we can keep Maine the way it ought to be.

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*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 by being an informed gun owner. Like our Facebook Page and join our Facebook Group (just search for Gun Owners of Maine), and visit our web site at [gunownersofmaine.org](http://gunownersofmaine.org).*

*Consider a membership or a donation if you would like to help financially support our work.*

