



GUN OWNERS OF MAINE

DEFENDING GUN RIGHTS

Regarding LD 2086: An Act to Amend the Law Governing the Disposition of Forfeited Firearms

LD 2086, which appeared to be a bill clarifying how to handle disposed forfeited firearms, was initially of no concern to us. However, the sponsor amendment is of great concern.

We are speaking in opposition to the amendment. An amendment of this scope should have been brought forth as separate legislation, and not snuck in on what is essentially a completely unrelated bill. This language isn't even available for the public to see when looking at the original legislation.

In short, the redefinition of "machine gun" in this amendment would make many legal modifications to firearms, including but not limited to, bump stocks, binary triggers, competition triggers, and any attachment that can "materially alter" the rate of fire of a semi-automatic firearm.

- If passed, LD 2086 would redefine "Machine Gun" in Maine law. "Machine Guns" are a prohibited item both in federal and state law unless an individual receives an NFA tax stamp for each "machine gun" they own. This requires additional paperwork, a \$200 fee, extensive background checks, and long waiting periods for approval.
- Many of these devices are used to make a firearm operate more smoothly or efficiently for both competitive and disabled shooters.
- Fundamentally changing the definition of a "machine gun" to include loosely defined "rapid modification devices" puts Maine out of step with federal law.
- The lack of clear definitions leaves the door wide open to banning nearly all firearm attachments. While this bill bans bump stocks, it also bans any attachment that could increase fire rate. This means something as common as aftermarket hunting triggers, designed to decrease the pull needed to fire the weapon, could create a "machine gun classification."
- SCOTUS is currently hearing *Cargill v. Garland* and will decide the federal validity of a 2018 federal regulation banning the "bump stock" rifle attachment. It would be wise for Maine lawmakers to wait until this case is decided before making changes to Maine law.

We would strongly encourage this committee to vote down this amendment, wait for the Supreme Court ruling, and if the sponsor so chooses, resubmit the language as its own piece of legislation instead of trying to sneak it in the backdoor.

On behalf of our membership and the Gun Owners of Maine Board of Directors,

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