

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Rep B

SAC
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L.D. 695

Date: 4/3/24

(Filing No. S-628)

REPORT B

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate.

STATE OF MAINE

SENATE

132ND LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "B" to S.P. 312, L.D. 695, "An Act Regarding the Laws of the State of Maine"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'An Act to Permit Legislators to Carry a Handgun in the State Capitol Area'

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. 3 MRSA §170-C is enacted to read:

§170-C. Reimbursement for handgun safety course

A member of the Legislature, or an immediate family member of a member of the Legislature, who is issued a permit to carry a concealed handgun by an issuing authority pursuant to Title 25, section 2003 must be reimbursed by the Legislature for the cost of completing a course that includes handgun safety if that member or that member's immediate family member was required pursuant to Title 25, section 2003, subsection 1, paragraph E, subparagraph (5) to take a course that includes handgun safety to be eligible for the permit. For the purposes of this section, "immediate family member" means, with regard to a member of the Legislature, that member's spouse, child, sibling, parent, grandparent or grandchild who is over 18 years of age and who shares the same place of residence as that member.

Sec. 2. 25 MRSA §2003, sub-§13, as enacted by PL 1991, c. 865, §4, is amended to read:

13. Fee waiver. An issuing authority may waive the permit fee for a permit issued to a law enforcement officer certified by the Maine Criminal Justice Academy and shall waive the permit fee for a permit issued to a member of the Legislature.

Sec. 3. 25 MRSA §2904, sub-§3 is enacted to read:

3. Carrying of handgun by Legislators in capitol area. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, rules adopted pursuant to subsections 1 and 2 must allow

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "B" to S.P. 312, L.D. 695(5-628)

1 a member of the Legislature to carry a handgun, including a concealed handgun, in the
2 capitol area as long as the member of the Legislature has received a concealed handgun
3 permit issued by an issuing authority pursuant to section 2003. For the purposes of this
4 subsection, "handgun" has the same meaning as in section 2002, subsection 8-A and
5 "capitol area" has the same meaning as in Title 1, section 814, subsection 2.

6 **Sec. 4. Department of Public Safety; resources for implementation.** The
7 Department of Public Safety shall implement the requirements of this Act, as applicable,
8 within existing resources.'

9 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section
10 number to read consecutively.

11 **SUMMARY**

12 This amendment, which is a minority report of the committee, replaces the bill, which
13 is a concept draft, and changes the title. The amendment provides that a member of the
14 Legislature, or an immediate family member of a member of the Legislature, who is issued
15 a permit to carry a concealed handgun must be reimbursed for the cost of completing a
16 handgun safety course if that member or that member's immediate family member was
17 required to take the handgun safety course to be eligible for the permit. "Immediate family
18 member" is defined to mean a member's spouse, child, sibling, parent, grandparent or
19 grandchild who is at least 18 years of age and who resides in the same place as the member.
20 It directs an issuing authority to waive the permit fee for a permit issued to a member of
21 the Legislature. The amendment also requires that rules adopted by certain state agencies
22 governing security at the state capitol area must allow a member of the Legislature to carry
23 a handgun, including a concealed handgun, in the capitol area as long as the member of the
24 Legislature has received a concealed handgun permit.

25 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**
26 (See attached)



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 695

LR 2170(03)

An Act Regarding the Laws of the State of Maine

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment**Committee: State and Local Government****Fiscal Note Required: Yes***B'(S628)*

Fiscal Note

Current biennium cost increase - General Fund

Current biennium cost increase - Highway Fund

Fiscal Detail and Notes

The bill provides that a member of the Legislature or an immediate family member of a member of the Legislature, who is issued a permit to carry a concealed handgun shall be reimbursed for the cost of completing a handgun safety course if that member or that member's immediate family member was required to take the handgun safety course to be eligible for the permit. The cost to the Legislature will depend on the number of legislators and family members seeking reimbursement for such courses at a cost of approximately \$100 to \$200 per course.

The Department of Public Safety has indicated that it would need a General Fund appropriation of \$68,050 and a Highway Fund allocation of \$36,640 in fiscal year 2026-27 for one Management Analyst I position and related costs to process concealed handgun permit applications for members of the Legislature and family members. Since the amendment includes language for the Department to perform these tasks within existing resources, no funding has been included. The impact of these new unfunded costs on other department programs and activities cannot be determined at this time.