

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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H. of S.

100

L.D. 532

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DATE: May 5, 1999

(Filing No. S-208 )

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**CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

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Reported by:

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**STATE OF MAINE  
SENATE  
119TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT " A " to S.P. 178, L.D. 532, Bill, "An Act to Limit Children's Access to Firearms"

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Amend the bill by striking out all of section 2 and inserting in its place the following:

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'Sec. 2. 17-A MRSA §554, sub-§1, ¶B-2 is enacted to read:

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B-2. Does the following:

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(1) Knowingly stores or keeps a loaded firearm on premises that are under the person's control;

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(2) Knowingly stores or keeps a loaded firearm without a trigger lock device or in a place other than in a locked container; and

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(3) Knowingly stores or keeps a loaded firearm and a child under 16 years of age gains access to the firearm without the permission of that child's parent or guardian; or'

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Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the summary the following:

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**'FISCAL NOTE**

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This bill may increase prosecutions for Class D crimes. If a jail sentence is imposed, the additional costs to the counties

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**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

R. S.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 178, L.D. 532

2 are estimated to be \$82.48 per day per prisoner. These costs are  
not reimbursed by the State. The number of prosecutions that may  
4 result in a jail sentence and the resulting costs to the county  
jail system are expected to be insignificant.

6 The additional workload, administrative costs and indigent  
defense costs associated with the minimal number of new cases  
8 filed in the court system can be absorbed within the budgeted  
resources of the Judicial Department. The collection of  
10 additional fines may also increase General Fund revenue by minor  
amounts.'

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**SUMMARY**

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This amendment amends the endangering the welfare of a child  
law and is the minority report of the Joint Standing Committee on  
18 Criminal Justice. The amendment specifies that a person is  
guilty of endangering the welfare of a child if the person stores  
20 a loaded firearm in an unlocked container or without a trigger  
lock device and a child under 16 years of age gains access to the  
22 firearm without the permission of the child's parent or  
guardian. The amendment also adds a fiscal note to the bill.