

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document

No. 1470

S.P. 450

In Senate, April 2, 2019

An Act To Allow the Prohibition of Weapons at Public Proceedings and Voting Places

Reference to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BREEN of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representative BRENNAN of Portland and
Representatives: BABINE of Scarborough, DENK of Kennebunk, HARNETT of Gardiner,
MATLACK of St. George, PIERCE of Falmouth, RILEY of Jay, TEPLER of Topsham.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 1 MRSA §415** is enacted to read:

3 **§415. Regulation of weapons at public proceedings**

4 Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, a political subdivision
5 may adopt an ordinance, rule or policy that prohibits the carrying of a dangerous weapon
6 at its public proceedings and voting places. An ordinance, rule or policy adopted
7 pursuant to this section must provide an exception to allow the carrying of a handgun by
8 an on-duty federal, state or local law enforcement officer. For the purposes of this
9 section, "dangerous weapon" has the same meaning as in Title 17-A, section 2, subsection
10 9, paragraph C, "law enforcement officer" has the same meaning as in Title 17-A, section
11 2, subsection 17, "political subdivision" means any municipality, plantation, county,
12 quasi-municipal corporation and special purpose district, including, but not limited to,
13 any water district, sanitary district, hospital district, municipal transmission and
14 distribution utility and school administrative unit, "school administrative unit" has the
15 same meaning as in Title 20-A, section 1, subsection 26 and "voting place" has the same
16 meaning as in Title 21-A, section 1, subsection 49.

17 **Sec. 2. 25 MRSA §2011, sub-§3**, as enacted by PL 1989, c. 359, is amended to
18 read:

19 **3. Exception.** This section does not prohibit an order, ordinance, rule or regulation
20 of any political subdivision ~~which that~~, with the exception of appropriate civil penalty
21 provisions, conforms exactly with any applicable provision of state law or ~~which that~~
22 regulates the discharge of firearms within a jurisdiction or that regulates the carrying of
23 firearms in accordance with Title 1, section 415.

24 **SUMMARY**

25 This bill allows a political subdivision to prohibit the carrying of dangerous weapons
26 at public proceedings and at voting places. It provides an exception to allow the carrying
27 of a handgun by an on-duty law enforcement officer. It defines "political subdivision" as
28 any municipality, plantation, county, quasi-municipal corporation and special purpose
29 district, including, but not limited to, any water district, sanitary district, hospital district,
30 municipal transmission and distribution utility and school administrative unit.