

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

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Legislative Document

No. 1255

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H.P. 803

House of Representatives, March 21, 2023

### An Act to Improve the Security of Voting Places

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Reference to the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative ARFORD of Brunswick.  
Cosponsored by Senator DAUGHTRY of Cumberland and  
Representatives: BELL of Yarmouth, CRAVEN of Lewiston, DOUDERA of Camden, KUHN  
of Falmouth, RISEMAN of Harrison, SUPICA of Bangor, Senators: BRENNER of  
Cumberland, CARNEY of Cumberland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §683** is enacted to read:

3 **§683. Dangerous weapons at voting places**

4 **1. Prohibition.** A person may not carry or discharge a dangerous weapon:

5 A. While present in a voting place or on public property within 250 feet of a voting  
6 place during the time that the polls are open until the completion of election duties at  
7 the voting place on election day;

8 B. In a location where absentee voting is occurring in the presence of the clerk or on  
9 public property within 250 feet of that location; or

10 C. In a location where the clerk's office is receiving or emptying absentee ballots via a  
11 secured drop box or on public property within 250 feet of that location.

12 For purposes of this section, "dangerous weapon" has the same meaning as defined in Title  
13 17-A, section 2, subsection 9.

14 **2. Exception.** Subsection 1 does not apply to:

15 A. A law enforcement officer in the performance of the officer's official duties; or

16 B. A dangerous weapon in a locked motor vehicle that is not removed from the motor  
17 vehicle or carried by a person.

18 **3. Penalty.** A person who violates this section commits a civil violation for which a  
19 penalty of not more than \$1,000 may be adjudged.

20 **SUMMARY**

21 This bill restricts dangerous weapons at voting places. The bill provides an exception  
22 for law enforcement officers in the performance of their official duties and for dangerous  
23 weapons locked in motor vehicles.