

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

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HOUSE

NO. 54

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*House of Representatives, Jan. 31, 1917.*

*Tabled for printing under rules by Mr. Cushman of Auburn  
and five hundred copies ordered printed.*

*W. R. ROIX, Clerk.*

*Presented by Mr. Cushman of Auburn.*

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND NINE  
HUNDRED AND SEVENTEEN

AN ACT to amend section thirty-nine of chapter forty-four  
of the Revised Statutes, relating to the sale or loaning of  
firearms to children.

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

Section 1. Section 39 of Chapter 44 of the Revised Stat-  
utes is hereby amended by inserting after the word "to"  
in the second line the following: 'a child under sixteen  
years of age. No dealer shall make such sale or loan to,'  
also by inserting after the word "person" in the second  
line the words 'sixteen years of age or more,' also by in-

7 serring after the word "above" in the ninth line the words  
8 'or makes such sale or loan to a child under sixteen years  
9 of age,' and also by adding to said section the following:  
10 'Municipal courts and trial justices shall have jurisdiction  
11 and violations of this section,' so that the same as amended  
12 shall read as follows: 'No dealer shall sell, let or loan any  
13 firearm to a child under sixteen years of age. No dealer  
14 shall make such sale or loan to any person sixteen years  
15 of age or more without first recording in a book kept for  
16 the purpose, the name or make, calibre and number, if any,  
17 of said firearm, also the name and address of the purchaser  
18 or recipient of said firearm. Said record shall be made  
19 before said firearm is delivered, and shall be open to the  
20 inspection of any sheriff, deputy sheriff, police officer, con-  
21 stable, game warden, or prosecuting attorney. Any dealer  
22 who fails to keep such record or refuses to show the same  
23 to any officer named above, or makes such sale or loan to  
24 a child under sixteen years of age, shall be punished by a  
25 fine not exceeding fifty dollars. Whoever gives a false or  
26 fictitious name to said dealer shall be punished by a fine  
27 not exceeding fifty dollars. This section shall not apply to  
28 wholesalers, who sell only to other dealers, or to manu-  
29 facturers who sell only at wholesale. Municipal courts and  
30 trial justices shall have jurisdiction of violations of this  
31 section.'

Sect. 2. This act shall take effect when approved.

### STATEMENT OF FACTS.

Made in triplicate to accompany these three bills which are suggested by Dr. W. L. Haskell, of Lewiston.

The Doctor states that there has come under his observation in the Sisters' Hospital in Lewiston during the last five years three cases of lockjaw in boys under 16 years of age, induced by wounds caused by discharge of blank cartridges.

He also attended a boy by the name of Stanley whose eye was injured by the discharge of a blank cartridge about two years ago. Eye now deformed.

About a month ago he attended a boy of 14 in Lewiston, who was accidentally shot with a revolver in the hands of a lad under 16. The wound was in the head and the boy died.

The Doctor has also known of injuries from air rifles, and regards them nearly as dangerous as the ordinary 22-calibre rifle.