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LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD

BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION



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Benjamin M. Chipman

Maine

State Senator, SD-027 (D)

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Lifetime
Freedom
Score

ME Legislative Scorecard 2024

✓ Pro-Freedom ✗ Anti-Freedom — Did not Vote **Vote**

1. Imposes a 72-hour waiting period for firearm purchases, meaning a seller cannot deliver a firearm to a buyer until three days after the purchase agreement. This waiting period runs alongside any required background checks.



Pro-Freedom: **No** · Cast: **Yes** · LD2238 · 04/17/2024

2. Proposes a \$30 million bond issue to fund the design, development, and maintenance of nonmotorized, motorized, and multi-use trails across Maine.



Estimated cost per household: -\$53.00/year.

Pro-Freedom: **No** · Cast: **Yes** · LD1156 · 04/16/2024

3. Imposes new rules on the development of renewable energy transmission in northern Maine.



Pro-Freedom: **No** · Cast: **Yes** · LD1963 · 04/15/2024

4. Establishes legal protections for individuals and healthcare providers involved in "gender-affirming" and "reproductive health care" services.



Pro-Freedom: **No** · Cast: **Yes** · LD227 · 04/12/2024

5. Prohibits unauthorized paramilitary training in Maine. It makes it a crime (Class D) to intentionally train others in using weapons or combat techniques if the trainer knows it will be used for "civil disorder." It also bans assembling for such training with the intent of furthering "civil disorder."



Pro-Freedom: **No** · Cast: **Yes** · LD2130 · 04/09/2024

6. Enters Maine into the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact.



Pro-Freedom: **No** · Cast: **Yes** · LD1578 · 04/03/2024

Scorecard Votes: 0%

Why do these votes matter?

1. Firearm Waiting Period

LD2238 imposes a 72-hour waiting period for firearm purchases, meaning a seller cannot deliver a firearm to a buyer until three days after the purchase agreement. This waiting period includes required background checks.

The Maine State Senate passed LD2238 on April 17, 2024 by a vote of 18 to 17. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this bill hinders law-abiding citizens' ability to purchase firearms through warrantless inquiry and delay, without probable cause. The Bill of Rights and the 14th Amendment bar states from denying due process, and the Second Amendment guarantees the right to keep and bear arms without infringement.

2. Big-government Funding

LD1156 proposes a \$30 million bond for developing and maintaining trails across Maine. Funds will be awarded through competitive grants to municipalities, state agencies, and nonprofits, with at least \$3 million in matching contributions. Projects must prioritize "sustainability", accessibility, and public access.

The Maine State Senate passed LD1156 on April 16, 2024 by a vote of 29 to 3. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this bill expands state control over land, limiting private-property rights and increasing government influence. State ownership restricts how land can be used, preventing private individuals and businesses from purchasing and developing it. Additionally, these grants allow the government to pick winners and losers.

3. Renewable Energy Transmission

LD1963 shifts renewable energy transmission permitting to the DEP, establishes a structured bidding process, and mandates new lines connect 1,200 MW of renewable energy to the New England grid. It prioritizes "energy equity," requires labor agreements for stability and safety, and promotes regional collaboration and federal funding to advance Maine's "climate goals."

The Maine State Senate passed LD1963 on April 15, 2024 by a vote of 19 to 13. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this bill prioritizes government-defined "economic benefits" and "energy equity" over free markets, mandates costly labor agreements, and increases dependence on federal oversight through regional collaboration and subsidies under the guise of Marxist "climate goals."

4. Abortion and Sex Changes

LD227 establishes legal protections for individuals and healthcare providers involved in "gender-affirming" and "reproductive health care" services. The law ensures that accessing such "services" is a legal "right" within the state and prohibits interference from out-of-state entities. It also safeguards healthcare practitioners from legal actions originating in other states.

The Maine State Senate passed LD227 on April 12, 2024 by a vote of 21 to 13. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this bill falsely declares access to these services a "right" despite no such guarantee in the Constitution, while violating the Declaration of Independence's affirmation of unalienable rights, including life, protected by the Fifth and 14th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution. Marxists and Leftists are pushing their woke agenda—claiming that one can choose his or her own gender and pronouns, and then force society to affirm them.

5. Prohibit Paramilitary Training

LD2130 prohibits unauthorized paramilitary training in Maine. It makes it a crime (Class D) to intentionally train others in using weapons or combat techniques if the trainer knows it will be used for "civil disorder." It also bans assembling for such training with the intent of furthering "civil disorder."

The Maine State Senate passed LD2130 on April 9, 2024 by a vote of 20 to 14. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this bill violates the First and Second Amendments. It restricts peaceful assembly and infringes on the right to bear arms by criminalizing weapons training based on intent. Granting the government power to dictate who may train with arms undermines the very freedoms the Constitution protects.

6. National Popular Vote

LD1578 enters Maine into the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, which would allocate the state's electoral votes to the presidential candidate who wins the national popular vote—if enough states join to form a majority of electoral votes. It also updates Maine's ranked-choice voting procedures for presidential elections to align with the compact.

The Maine State Senate passed LD1578 on April 3, 2024 by a vote of 18 to 12. We have assigned pluses to the nays because the National Popular Vote undermines the Electoral College, violating state sovereignty and enabling majority tyranny. The Constitution (Article I, Section 10) bars interstate compacts without Congress, and election changes require an Article V amendment. Ranked-choice voting is unconstitutional, weakens integrity, and allows wins without true majorities.