

Submitter: Dennis Bennett  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary  
Measure: HB2007

HB 2007 will NOT reduce crime but rather encourage it. Criminals by definition do not obey laws - that is why they are a criminal. Criminals would encourage you to pass HB 2007 into law since it restrains the ability of law-abiding citizens to protect themselves. Do you think a criminal is deterred by "Gun Free Zones"? A Gun Free Zone sign to a criminal means low risk to them.

In 2019, The Maine Examiner reported residents of the state have been allowed to carry a concealed firearm without any special permit since 2015: four years after allowing the universal 'concealed carry' law, Maine was rated the safest state in the nation for crime. In fact, The U.S. News and World Report published an article regarding the public safety rankings for each state based on the FBI's latest available data. The study found that the top three states for public safety are Maine, Vermont, and New Hampshire. All three are constitutional/permitless carry states, which means no permit is required to carry a loaded handgun in most public places, openly, or concealed. In addition, the study shows that five of the top ten are constitutional carry states, with Idaho and Wyoming being the additional two states.

1994, Professors James D. Wright and Peter Rossi performed research for the National Institute of Justice. The pair interviewed and polled felony prisoners in 10 state correctional systems. Fifty-six percent of the prisoners said that a criminal would not attack a potential victim whom they knew to be armed. Thirty-nine percent of the felons had personally decided not to commit a crime because they thought the victim might have a gun, and 8 percent said that this had happened "many times." Criminals in states with higher civilian gun ownership rates worried the most about armed victims.

If HB 2007 becomes law, the state and its supporters are opening themselves up to lawsuits.