

125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2012

Legislative Document

No. 1603

H.P. 1212

House of Representatives, December 20, 2011

An Act To Amend the Law Relating to Concealed Firearms Locked in Vehicles

(EMERGENCY)

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Received by the Clerk of the House on December 16, 2011. Referred to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

Heath & Pruit

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST Clerk

Presented by Representative CRAFTS of Lisbon. Cosponsored by Senator MASON of Androscoggin and Representatives: BURNS of Whiting, CRAY of Palmyra, DAVIS of Sangerville, TIMBERLAKE of Turner, TURNER of Burlington.

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- 1 **Emergency preamble. Whereas,** acts and resolves of the Legislature do not 2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and
- 3 **Whereas,** this legislation needs to take effect before the expiration of the 90-day 4 period in order to provide equity in the laws governing concealed firearms in vehicles of 5 employees as soon as possible; and
- 6 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within 7 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as 8 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, 9 therefore,

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

 Sec. 1. 26 MRSA §600, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 2011, c. 393, §1, is amended to

 read:

13 **1. Firearms in vehicles.** An employer or an agent of an employer may not prohibit 14 an employee who has a valid permit to carry a concealed firearm under Title 25, chapter 15 252 from keeping a firearm in the employee's vehicle as long as the vehicle is locked and 16 the firearm is not visible. <u>This subsection applies to the State as an employer when a</u> 17 <u>state employee's vehicle is on property owned or leased by the State.</u> This subsection does 18 not authorize an employee to carry a firearm in a place where carrying a firearm is 19 prohibited by law.

- 20 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this 21 legislation takes effect when approved.
- 22

SUMMARY

This bill provides that the State may not prohibit a state employee who has a valid permit to carry a concealed firearm from keeping a firearm in the employee's vehicle on state property as long as the vehicle is locked and the firearm is not visible.