



Maine Municipal Association

60 COMMUNITY DRIVE
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www.memun.org

Maine State Police & MMA Concealed Weapons Permit Processing Questionnaire

The intent of this survey is to gather information regarding your municipality's process for conducting conceal weapon permit applications for the second session of the 130th Legislature at the request of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety (CJPS).

Your community has been identified as one without a police department or a contract with the Maine State Police (MSP) to provide the necessary background checks for a concealed weapons permit or with a police agency that does not have access to the State and Federal system.

This past session, the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety held a public hearing on LD 1446, *An Act To Aid Municipalities in the Issuance of Concealed Handgun Permits*. The intent of the bill was to ensure that municipalities who had not contracted with the Maine State Police prior to the enactment of the "Permit-less Carry" statute, to provide the necessary background, character, and health history checks, and verification of handgun safety training, required for the issuance of a permit to carry a concealed weapon under Maine State law.

The CJPS committee learned that the majority of Maine's municipalities without a police chief, had an existing contract with MSP at the time of enactment, and that several positions were removed from the office providing this municipal assistance at the time of "Permit-less Carry" enactment under the belief that such requests would be reduced.

There has not been a significant reduction in the request for permits in part because Maine's permits receive reciprocity from several other states allowing users to carry their weapons away from home and on some federally protected lands and for other personal reasons to the applicant. The integrity of Maine's concealed weapons permit process is key in maintaining these benefits.

To that end, the CJPS committee would like MMA and MSP to report back next session on the willingness and possible impacts on state resources for opening the process to a larger pool of communities.

We would welcome your responses to the questions in this form and any questions you may have about the effort. Please feel free to contact Rebecca Graham, MMA Legislative Advocate at rgraham@memun.org or 624-0101 if you have any questions or would like further information about the process.

Information regarding all of the appropriate measures to consider when issuing a permit is available here: <https://www.maine.gov/dps/msp/sites/maine.gov.dps.msp/files/inline-files/CFP%20Booklet.pdf>

Thank you for your time and assistance!

* 1. Which municipality do you represent?

* 2. What is your name & title?

* 3. Does your municipality currently accept applications for concealed weapons permits?

Yes

No



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* 4. If yes, what law enforcement agency do you use to run your criminal, mental health and character background checks, and who assumes final authority for issuing the permit? (please describe the process)

5. How many active concealed weapons permits do you currently have?



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6. If no, how do you handle citizen requests for handgun permits? (Please describe the process)

7. Would you be interested in designating the Maine State Police to provide this service for your municipality?

Yes

No



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8. What law enforcement agency would you prefer to use?