



April 6, 2023

Testimony in Opposition to LD 1242 with Amendments An Act to Eliminate Certain Motor Vehicle Inspections

Greetings Chairs Chipman and Williams and the distinguished members of the Committee on Transportation:

My name is James Tassé and I am the Assistant Director of the Bicycle Coalition of Maine (BCM). Our mission is to make Maine better and safer for bicycling and walking. On behalf of our more than 20,000 members and supporters, I am submitting this testimony in OPPOSITION to LD 1242. The BCM believes that repealing the requirements to inspect motor vehicles and make sure that they are safe and road-worthy will make Maine's public ways less safe for all users, including for walkers, bicycle riders, and drivers. For this reason, the BCM urges an "Ought Not to Pass" report from the committee.

Motor vehicles of any age can, and often do, have mechanical problems. Brakes wear out, lights fail, steering components get loose, wipers get pitted, tires lose tread, electronics malfunction. These parts are all critical components of a motor vehicle that a driver uses to control speed, see where they are going, and guide the vehicle on the road safely. Maine's inspection program ensures that every motor vehicle meets the minimum safe mechanical standards.

For this reason, vehicle inspections are beneficial. Functioning brakes, good tires, and working windshield wipers and lights are basic equipment every vehicle on the road needs to have to protect public safety. Inspections are also known to extend the life of a vehicle by alerting the owner of a problem, so that maintenance can occur before the vehicle is damaged beyond the point of repair. And most importantly, a vehicle defect found during an inspection and repaired could save a life.

For these reasons, the BCM urges the committee to recommend an Ought Not to Pass report for LD 1242.

Thank you for your time, and for your service to the state.

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "James Tassé".

James Tassé
Assistant Director
Bicycle Coalition of Maine

James Tasse
Bicycle Coalition of Maine
LD 1242

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