



April 18, 2023

Testimony in Support of LD 1374 with Amendments
An Act to Improve Driver Safety by Requiring the Completion
of a Defensive Driving Course for Certain Violations

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 support of LD 1374 with amendments. The BCM believes that passing this bill, with the amendment proposed below, will help promote roadway safety, in particular for vulnerable users. For these reasons, the BCM urges an “Ought to Pass with Amendment” report from the committee.

This bill would require a driver to take a remedial driver education course for violations of statute that prohibit distracted driving, texting while driving, or driving with an electronic device in hand. We support this measure, but we do not feel that it goes enough.

The BCM therefore recommends that this bill be amended so as to require that the same or a similar course be taken for any violation that involves vulnerable users as defined in Maine State Law Title 29-A §101, including but not limited to violations under §2056 (Pedestrians), §2057 Sub 10 (Traffic Control Devices), §2060 (Turning at Intersections), §2070 (Passing).

The BCM urges an Ought to Pass, with the amendment proposed above.

Thank you for your time and service to the people of Maine.

Sincerely,

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 1374

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