



# 132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

---

Legislative Document

No. 1209

S.P. 498

In Senate, March 20, 2025

**Resolve, to Create a Working Group to Study the Safety and Use of  
Small Lightweight Vehicles on Maine's Roads and Highways, the  
Systems and Laws Governing Antique Vehicles and the General  
Improvement of Road Safety**

---

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland.  
Cosponsored by Representative HEPLER of Woolwich and  
Senators: FARRIN of Somerset, NANGLE of Cumberland, Representative: PLUECKER of  
Warren.

1           **Sec. 1. Small lightweight vehicle working group. Resolved:** That the  
2 Secretary of State shall convene a working group, referred to in this resolve as "the working  
3 group," to study the potential to allow registration and use by motorists of small lightweight  
4 vehicles, including mini trucks, on the State's roads and highways, to review the systems  
5 and laws in place for antique vehicles and to study improving road safety generally. The  
6 working group consists of 6 members, as follows:

- 7           1. The Secretary of State or the secretary's designee;
- 8           2. The deputy secretary of state for the Bureau of Motor Vehicles;
- 9           3. One member from the Bureau of Motor Vehicles who is an expert in vehicle safety  
10 and emissions standards appointed by the Secretary of State;
- 11           4. One member who is a representative of a motor vehicle insurance company  
12 appointed by the Secretary of State;
- 13           5. One member who is a representative of a motor vehicle inspection business  
14 appointed by the Secretary of State; and
- 15           6. One member who is a representative of a business that imports foreign cars for sale  
16 in the State appointed by the Secretary of State.

17           **Sec. 2. Duties. Resolved:** That the working group shall:

- 18           1. Review and analyze the safety of allowing the use of small lightweight vehicles on  
19 the State's roads and highways, including but not limited to crash safety, vehicle emissions  
20 and speed capabilities, and a comparison of the safety of small lightweight vehicles to the  
21 safety of vehicles already allowed on the State's roads and highways, including antique  
22 vehicles and motorcycles;
- 23           2. Review and analyze laws in other states that allow the use of small lightweight  
24 vehicles and how the allowance of these vehicles has affected motor vehicle safety in those  
25 states;
- 26           3. Review and analyze any reports or studies from other states that have considered  
27 the subjects of study described in section 1 and how the results of those reports or studies  
28 could relate to the State's roads and highways and motor vehicle systems;
- 29           4. Consider the most effective way to allow for small lightweight vehicles to be used  
30 on the State's roads and highways while protecting the safety of those driving them and  
31 other drivers and consider any restrictions on location, annual mileage or driving speed and  
32 how to most effectively register those vehicles to indicate such restrictions, including  
33 through the use of a system similar to those systems used for antique and farm vehicles;
- 34           5. Consider how to implement an inspection system that would ensure that small  
35 lightweight vehicles are safe to drive on the State's roads and highways and how such a  
36 system might be similar to or different from the State's current inspection systems for motor  
37 vehicles and antique vehicles;
- 38           6. Recommend whether to implement the registration, inspection and use of small  
39 lightweight vehicles on the State's roads and highways and recommend any related  
40 legislation;

