



State of Maine
Department of the Secretary of State
Department of Public Safety

December 3, 2025

The Honorable Tim Nangle, Senate Chair
The Honorable Lydia Crafts, House Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Transportation
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0100

Dear Senator Nangle and Representative Crafts,

Pursuant to the requirements of PL 2025 c. 78 (Resolve, Directing the Secretary of State to Develop Recommendations for a Multiyear Registration System for National Car Rental Companies) we are pleased to provide this report on our consideration and development of recommendations on how to implement a multiyear registration and inspection program for national car rental companies in the state in order to improve efficiencies for highly utilized rental car companies operating in the State of Maine.

On November 21, Deputy Secretary of State Emily Cook, the Department's Senior Policy Director, and Lt. Bruce Scott, Commanding Office of the State Police Traffic Safety Unit, met with representatives from Enterprise Mobility to discuss their findings from work internal to their agencies since the end of the legislative session. What follows is the result of that internal work and the meeting.

Lt. Scott recommends creating a change to the current law that would allow for a 2-year inspection sticker for car rental companies that register more than 1000 vehicles per year in the State of Maine and that meet certain additional requirements. The car rental company would have to fill out an affidavit indicating that they will ensure their fleet of vehicles are properly maintained during that two-year period so that the vehicles meet or exceed the requirements listed in Maine Motor Vehicle Inspection Manual, MMVIM. This could be done by adding similar language to the following.

§1751. Motor vehicle inspection

1. Inspection required. Except as provided in this chapter or section 2307, subsection 1, a motor vehicle required to be registered in this State must have an annual inspection. A person may have a motor vehicle inspected more frequently.

[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

1.A Biennial inspection allowed. *Businesses that rent non-commercial motor vehicles to the public may receive a two-year certificate of inspection if they meet the following criteria; the business must register at least 1000 vehicles per year in the State of Maine and must file an affidavit with the Maine State Police indicating their fleet of rental vehicles will be properly maintained during that two-year*

period so that the vehicles meet or exceed the requirements listed in Maine Motor Vehicle Inspection Manual, MMVIM, section 170.

It is our hope that this statutory change would be an important efficiency for the rental car industry and meet their concerns about the challenges of bringing the cars in state to a specific location for renewals.

Regarding the registrations side of the Resolve, Deputy Secretary of State for the Bureau of Motor Vehicles Cathie Curtis noted that Rapid Renewal remains the easiest way to complete the annual registration requirement. They noted that vehicles are not required to be in state or with the person processing the registration at the time of the transaction. As of October 30, there are 355 municipalities offering Rapid Renewal, and more than 3.5 million transactions have been processed to date. Rapid Renewal transactions may be completed up to two months before the expiration of a vehicle's current registration, providing a good window of time for new tags to be affixed in a timely fashion.

Deputy Curtis also noted that excise tax is not required to be collected when trailers and semitrailers are registered. This allows for a multi-year registration program for trailers and semitrailers. Implementing a multi-year registration program for rental cars is more difficult in Maine than other states because not all states collect excise taxes on vehicles.

Additionally, Deputy Curtis noted that under Title 29-A §411, BMV already has the statutory authority to implement a multi-year registration program. BMV does not, however, have the resources – including staff time and systems – to conduct the required rulemaking and system setup and development to implement such a program at this time.

Given that statutory authority already exists to allow for a multi-year registration program and that Rapid Renewal allows for convenient, efficient online registration of rental car vehicles, no changes are recommended related to registrations.

In summary, the group has presented a solution that eliminates the annual vehicle inspection requirement for rental cars but preserves the existing annual registration and excise tax renewals.

Sincerely,



Cathie Curtis
Deputy Secretary of State
Bureau of Motor Vehicles



Lt. Bruce Scott
Motor Vehicle Inspection Unit
Maine State Police