

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.

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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 3	Secretary of State shall convene a working group, referred to in this resolve as "the working group," to study the potential to allow registration and use by motorists of small lightweight
3 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 10	3. One member from the Bureau of Motor Vehicles who is an expert in vehicle safety and emissions standards appointed by the Secretary of State;
11 12	4. One member who is a representative of a motor vehicle insurance company appointed by the Secretary of State;
13 14	5. One member who is a representative of a motor vehicle inspection business appointed by the Secretary of State; and
15 16	6. One member who is a representative of a business that imports foreign cars for sale in the State appointed by the Secretary of State.
17	Sec. 2. Duties. Resolved: That the working group shall:
18 19 20 21 22	1. Review and analyze the safety of allowing the use of small lightweight vehicles on the State's roads and highways, including but not limited to crash safety, vehicle emissions and speed capabilities, and a comparison of the safety of small lightweight vehicles to the safety of vehicles already allowed on the State's roads and highways, including antique vehicles and motorcycles;
23 24 25	2. Review and analyze laws in other states that allow the use of small lightweight vehicles and how the allowance of these vehicles has affected motor vehicle safety in those states;
26 27 28	3. Review and analyze any reports or studies from other states that have considered the subjects of study described in section 1 and how the results of those reports or studies could relate to the State's roads and highways and motor vehicle systems;
29 30 31 32 33	4. Consider the most effective way to allow for small lightweight vehicles to be used on the State's roads and highways while protecting the safety of those driving them and other drivers and consider any restrictions on location, annual mileage or driving speed and how to most effectively register those vehicles to indicate such restrictions, including through the use of a system similar to those systems used for antique and farm vehicles;
34 35 36 37	5. Consider how to implement an inspection system that would ensure that small lightweight vehicles are safe to drive on the State's roads and highways and how such a system might be similar to or different from the State's current inspection systems for motor vehicles and antique vehicles;
38 39 40	6. Recommend whether to implement the registration, inspection and use of small lightweight vehicles on the State's roads and highways and recommend any related legislation;

- 7. Review the inspection system in place for antique vehicles and the safety of antique
 vehicles generally and when driven on the State's roads and highways and recommend any
 related legislation; and
- 8. Study the safety of roads and highways in the State and recommend legislation to improve road safety generally.
- 6 Sec. 3. Compensation. Resolved: That members of the working group may not 7 be compensated for their work on the working group.
- 8 Sec. 4. Staff assistance. Resolved: That the Department of the Secretary of State,
 9 Bureau of Motor Vehicles shall provide necessary staffing services to the working group
 10 within existing resources.
- 11 Sec. 5. Report. Resolved: That the Secretary of State shall provide a report by 12 December 3, 2025 containing the findings and recommendations of the working group, 13 including any suggested legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation. 14 The joint standing committee may introduce legislation for presentation to the Second 15 Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature based on the recommendations in the report.
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SUMMARY

17 This resolve directs the Secretary of State to convene a working group to study the 18 potential to allow registration and use by motorists of small lightweight vehicles, including 19 mini trucks, on the State's roads and highways, to review the systems and laws in place for 20 antique vehicles and to study improving road safety generally. The Secretary of State is 21 directed to report by December 3, 2025 to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation, 22 which is authorized to introduce legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd 23 Legislature.