



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL & FINANCIAL REGULATION
BUREAU OF INSURANCE



Janet T. Mills
Governor

Robert L. Carey
Superintendent

Joan F. Cohen
Commissioner

March 25, 2025

Senator Donna Bailey, Senate Chair
Representative Lori Gramlich, House Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services
100 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Re: L.D. 1064, "An Act to Ensure Automobile Insurance Rates Are Maintained upon the Death of a Spouse"

Dear Senator Bailey, Representative Gramlich and Members of the Committee:

The Maine Bureau of Insurance is neither for nor against L.D. 1064, "An Act to Ensure Automobile Insurance Rates Are Maintained upon the Death of a Spouse." I am writing to provide background information on this bill.

The bill would prohibit an insurance company from cancelling, nonrenewing, reducing liability limits for or charging a higher premium for auto policies based solely on the death of an insured's spouse.

It is important for committee members to note that the Maine Automobile Cancellation Control Act already prohibits auto insurers from cancelling or nonrenewing policies that are subject to the Act due to the death of a spouse. So the portion of the bill that would prohibit that practice is redundant.

However, currently, when an insured becomes widowed, some auto carriers rate widows as married indefinitely after the death of their spouse while other carriers transition widowed insureds to a sometimes higher rate at the next renewal after the death of the spouse. If this bill were to pass, widowed insureds would keep their married status and rate associated with that status and coverage liability limit indefinitely unless the insurer could justify a raise in rate or decrease in liability limit due to a reason other than the death of the insured's spouse.

I hope this information is helpful.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Carey
Superintendent

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