



To the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation
April 8th, 2025

Americans for Prosperity Testimony Support of L.D. 566 (H.P. 246) An Act to Modernize the Motor Vehicle Inspection Program and Amend the Law Governing Inspection Fees

Honorable Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation,

My name is Rachel Burgin, and I serve as the Deputy Regional State Director for Americans for Prosperity. On behalf of Americans for Prosperity, I write to express our **strong opposition** to L.D. 566, *An Act to Modernize the Motor Vehicle Inspection Program and Amend the Law Governing Motor Vehicle Inspections*, sponsored by Senator Brad Farrin.

While the intent to modernize is commendable, this legislation reinforces an already **outdated** and **unnecessary** inspection system that imposes financial and bureaucratic burdens on Maine families—without delivering clear public safety benefits.

L.D. 566 not only **standardizes and increases inspection fees**—raising the cost to \$20 for all vehicles and school buses — but also **introduces an electronic inspection system** that will impose new compliance costs on small businesses, especially local inspection stations. These “modernization” efforts come at a time when working families are already facing higher costs across the board. The reality is that this bill would expand a program that is already burdensome, inefficient, and costly.

More importantly, **over 30 other states** across the country **do not** mandate annual vehicle inspections for personal vehicles — and they have not seen corresponding increases in vehicle-related accidents. This proves what many Mainers already know: modern vehicles are built with high safety standards, and the annual inspection requirement is more about compliance and fees than actual safety.

In practice, Maine’s inspection program often functions as a tax on drivers — leading to **unpredictable repair costs, frustrating delays, and added expenses** that disproportionately affect lower-income individuals and rural residents who rely on their vehicles for work, school, and essential errands. Rather than eliminating these burdens, L.D. 566 **locks them in place and adds new layers of complexity and cost.**

At Americans for Prosperity, we believe Mainers should be trusted to responsibly maintain their vehicles without excessive government mandates. L.D. 566 expands a system that Mainers increasingly view as outdated and unfair.



We urge lawmakers to reject this legislation and instead move toward meaningful reform—like eliminating unnecessary inspections altogether, in line with the majority of U.S. states.

We respectfully request that you vote against this bill and support Mainers who are struggling with taxes and fees increased by mandates.

With gratitude,

Rachel Burgin
Regional Deputy State Director
Americans for Prosperity