



Testimony in Support of LD 661:

“An Act to Amend Motor Vehicle Inspection Requirements”

Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts, and the distinguished members of the Committee on Transportation, my name is Harris Van Pate, and I serve as policy analyst for Maine Policy Institute. Maine Policy is a free market think tank, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that advocates for individual liberty and economic freedom in Maine. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support for LD 661, “An Act to Amend Motor Vehicle Inspection Requirements.”

This bill offers a commonsense reform to Maine’s outdated vehicle inspection system. It exempts new Class C motor vehicles from inspection for the first three years following their manufacture—unless those vehicles are damaged in a collision, a natural disaster, or if ownership changes. While this policy does not fully abolish Maine’s unnecessary annual licensing requirements, it would reduce an unnecessary burden on Maine drivers and align our state with national norms.

Modern Vehicles Are Built Safer and Last Longer

Today’s vehicles are engineered to meet higher safety and emissions standards than ever before. Most states recognize this fact: as of 2024, Maine remains one of only nine states that still require universal annual safety inspections for all vehicles, regardless of age or condition.¹ In fact, 29 states either don’t require vehicle safety inspections at all, or only require limited one-time inspections at the point of purchase. LD 661 is a step toward aligning Maine’s policies with the realities of modern vehicle technology.

A Regulatory Burden With Diminishing Returns

Requiring an inspection on a new vehicle within its first year of operation is costly and largely symbolic. Not only are these vehicles unlikely to experience safety issues, but requiring inspections also imposes direct and indirect costs on Maine families. These include the inspection cost, time away from work or family, and unnecessary administrative burdens. A three-year exemption would ease this burden without compromising road safety.

Conclusion

LD 661 is a modest but meaningful reform that reflects both technological progress and a free-market philosophy of governance. It reduces red tape for Maine drivers,

¹ <https://1800lionlaw.com/vehicle-inspection-laws-by-state/>



encourages regulatory efficiency, and ensures resources are allocated where they are most needed. We urge this committee to support LD 661 and move Maine toward a smarter, more modern vehicle inspection system. Thank you for your time and consideration.