

April 8, 2025

Senator Tim Nangle
Representative Lydia V. Crafts
Transportation Committee
State House, Room 126
Augusta, ME 04333

RE: LD 320 An Act to Repeal Certain Motor Vehicle Inspection Requirements.
LD 547 An Act to Modify Maine Motor Vehicle Inspection Standards to Permit Exterior, Nonstructural Corrosion That Does Not Directly Affect the Passenger Compartment.
LD 566 An Act to Modernize the Motor Vehicle Inspection Program and Amend the Law Governing Inspection Fees.
LD 661 An Act to Amend Motor Vehicle Inspection Requirements.
LD 667 An Act to Modernize the State Motor Vehicle Inspection Program and the Law Governing Inspection Fees.
LD 1010 An Act to Amend the State's Vehicle Inspection Law by Requiring Inspections Biennially

Dear Senator Nangle and Representative Crafts:

The American Property and Casualty Insurance Association (APCIA) submits this testimony in opposition to LDs 320, LD 661 and LD 1010, each of which would weaken Maine's current inspection laws. Maine's inspection program results in safer cars and saves lives. This issue has been raised a number of times before this Committee. The 131st Legislature reviewed LD 623 and 746, among others. The 130th Committee reviewed LDs 284, 354, 388, 431, 490, 565 and 712. In the 129th Legislature the bills were LDs 110, 117, 270 and 389. Similar bills have been proposed in a number of prior legislatures. At every turn these bills have been rejected as contrary to sound public policy.

The benefits of Maine's inspection laws include, among other things, lower insurance costs and safer motor vehicles. The value of inspection laws is confirmed by a study conducted by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation in March of 2009.

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The entire report is available at:

<http://www.dot.state.pa.us/public/dvsubforms/BMV/BMV%20Safety%20Inspection%20Bulletins/Inspection%20Program%20Effectiveness%20Study.pdf>

Currently Maine enjoys what the Bureau of Insurance calls “the Trifecta.” Maine has one of the lowest uninsured motorist percentages in the nation (+/- 4.5%). It has the second or third lowest premiums and it has the highest minimum mandated insurance limits in the country. In part these enviable rankings are the product of Maine’s inspection laws. Simply put, cars that are able to pass annual inspections are safer, result in fewer mechanical failures and fewer accidents.

APCIA does support LDs 566 and 663, which propose an electronic inspection program, as it improves the overall inspection process.

The Association respectfully urges the Committee to vote LDs 320, 661 and 1010.

Respectfully submitted



Bruce C. Gerrity

BCG:mlb

Cc: Committee Members