



Testimony in Support of LD 305:
“An Act Regarding Transportation in Maine”

Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts, and the distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation, my name is Montana Towers, 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 of LD 305, “An Act Regarding Transportation in Maine”

The proposed bill would ensure that veterans who qualify for free vehicle registration under Maine law, and who are recognized by the U.S. government for total service-connected disability, are eligible for the same excise tax exemption for leasing a vehicle as they are for purchasing one.

Public policy should not penalize individuals for choosing the most practical or affordable option available to them, especially not veterans who have borne the cost of defending our nation. For many disabled veterans living on fixed incomes or disability compensation, leasing a vehicle offers the most reasonable and accessible path to safe, reliable transportation. To exclude them from tax relief based solely on ownership structure is counter to the very spirit of the original law.

Maine Policy Institute has long supported reforms to Maine’s vehicle excise tax system. This bill represents a common-sense correction to ensure consistency and fairness in how these taxes are applied.

Importantly, the bill preserves safeguards to ensure that only qualified veterans receive the exemption by requiring their name to appear on the title or lease. This maintains program integrity while ensuring that no eligible veteran is left behind due to an arbitrary technicality.

In conclusion, this amendment reflects good governance: it acknowledges a legislative oversight, acts swiftly to fix it, and does so in a way that restores fairness without expanding bureaucracy or creating new entitlements.

For these reasons, Maine Policy Institute strongly urges this committee to vote “Ought to Pass” on LD 305. Thank you for your time and consideration.