

LD 1457 – Ought Not to Pass

Resolve, to Allow the Maine Turnpike Authority to Conduct a Pilot Program to Implement Automated Speed Control Systems in Highway Work Zones

Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

February 9, 2026

Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation,

As Maine reproductive rights and health care stakeholders, we would like to share our opposition to LD 1457 in its current form. As written, the bill allows the use of automated license plate readers (ALPRs), a technology that raises significant concerns about the privacy and welfare of Mainers in an era of unprecedented assaults on reproductive rights and patients. We encourage you to vote ought not to pass on LD 1457 unless these issues are addressed.

This bill's proposed pilot program to implement automated speed control systems in highway work zones would necessitate the use of automated license plate readers. Automated license plate recognition technology not only detects speeding vehicles but also captures and stores detailed data on every vehicle that passes it. Under Maine's current statute, that data can be retained for up to 21 days,¹ making it vulnerable to attack or misuse by external bad actors.

While we support the intent of this bill to protect the health and wellbeing of Mainers, we worry about the unintended consequences of amassing sensitive data with ALPR technology. This risk is not hypothetical: ALPR technology has already been deployed in ways that threaten the privacy and safety of people seeking reproductive health care. For example, in California, seventy-one police agencies violated state law by sharing ALPR data with out-of-state agencies.² In Illinois, the Secretary of State has asked the Attorney General to investigate a police department for violating state law when it shared data from an ALPR with a Texas sheriff seeking a woman who had an abortion.³

Even if the Maine Turnpike Authority attempts to put safeguards in place that will protect driver privacy, sensitive data remains vulnerable. States that criminalize abortion may still attempt to

¹ 29-A M.R.S. §2117-A(5).

² Electronic Frontier Foundation, *Civil Liberties Groups Demand California Police Stop Sharing Drivers' Location Data With Police In Anti-Abortion States*, May 25, 2023, available at <https://www EFF.org/press/releases/civil-liberties-groups-demand-california-police-stop-sharing-drivers-location-data>.

³ The Associated Press, *Illinois officials investigate license-plate data shared with police seeking woman who had abortion*, June 12, 2025, available at <https://www bangordailynews.com/2025/06/12/naMedicaltion/illinois-officials-investigate-license-plate-data-shared-with-police-seeking-woman-who-had-abortion/>.

evade Maine's health care shield law, which protects health care that is legal in Maine, by using the data collected by ALPRs. To our coalition, this potential harm is not worth the risk.

We urge you to vote ought not to pass on this bill in its current form. We suggest that the bill be modified to require speed measurement that does not capture and store license plate data.

ACLU of Maine

Mabel Wadsworth Center

Planned Parenthood of Northern New England

Maine Family Planning

SAFE Maine