

*131st Legislature*  
***Senate of***  
***Maine***  
*Senate District 24*

*Senator Eloise Vitelli*  
*Senate Majority Leader*  
*3 State House Station*  
*Augusta, ME 04333-0003*  
*Office (207) 287-1515*

*Testimony of Senator Eloise Vitelli introducing*  
**LD 746, An Act to Modernize the State's Vehicle Inspection System by**  
**Requiring Inspections Biennially and Allowing for an Electronic Inspection**  
**Program**  
*Before the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation*  
**March 16, 2023**

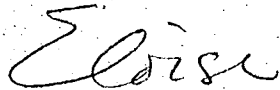
Senator Chipman, Representative Williams, and Esteemed Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation, my name is Eloise Vitelli, and I proudly represent Senate District 24, which includes all of Sagadahoc County and Dresden. Today I am pleased to introduce LD 746, "An Act to Modernize the State's Vehicle Inspection System by Requiring Inspections Biennially and Allowing for an Electronic Inspection Program."

Last year, a constituent contacted me and shared his idea for this bill. As this committee likely knows, the Legislature has a long history of looking at the benefits and costs of annual inspections. LD 746 adds to this history. It asks that we once again look to change the rules and, more importantly, update our systems to be more efficient and modern.

The need to modernize the system has never been more clear and urgent. In New England, Maine is the last state without a digital system to track car safety inspections. Each year, workers carry boxes of stickers into their office and sort the serial numbers in Augusta. After that, the State sends vehicle inspection stickers to more than 2,600 car dealerships and repair shops. Staff use a printout list and highlighters and pens to keep track of which dealership and shop receives which stickers. They must mail back receipts, known as stub sheets, with handwritten information about which sticker has placed on which car. (Inspection stations are expected to keep photocopies on their stub sheets on hand for two years.) In total, State Police employees count and file more than a million sheets of paper – all by hand – and keep track of four million sheets.

A modern state vehicle inspection program would help the State, inspectors and mechanics, police, and drivers. It would prevent abuse of the current system, and it could protect drivers from bad or low-quality inspections. It would ensure that mechanics are fairly compensated for conducting an inspection, without having taking on the burden of unpaid paperwork. It would help the State collect data and maintain records – without relying on a paper system from the pre-digital era.

Thank you for your time, I will do my best to answer any questions you may have.



**Eloise Vitelli**  
Senate Majority Leader, Senate District 24  
*Sagadahoc County and Dresden*