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THE MAINE SENATE
131st Legislature

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Testimony of Senator Mark Lawrence introducing LD 1806 "An Act to Require Online Used Car Dealers to Be Licensed"

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business"

May 9, 2023

Good afternoon Senator Curry, Representative Roberts, and Distinguished Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business. I am Senator Mark Lawrence, and I represent Senate District 35, which is made up of Eliot, Kittery, Ogunquit, South Berwick, and York. I am here today to present LD 1806, "An Act to Require Online Used Car Dealers to Be Licensed."

We are seeing more and more convenient car shopping options pop up all over the country. This is quickly becoming a trend in the automotive industry, and with changing times, this was an inevitability. While it is always great to expand our options, and create more avenues for business, it is important that we also give Maine consumers a place that they can go to with their concerns. I'm presenting this bill today in the hopes to accomplish that.

This bill would require that online used car dealers be licensed to sell motor vehicles to Maine residents. If an online used car dealer establishes a physical place of business in the state, they are subject to requirements regarding those businesses like any other car dealer would be in Maine. It would also require that the business post its license on their website so that it can be verified by the public.

Having had my own experience getting a car on one of these websites, I have firsthand understanding of the pros and cons of this process. While I do enjoy the car that I now have, the process was less than ideal. There are ways to make this easier for Maine residents as well as creating more transparency in the process, and I think this is the first step in doing that.

I thank you all for your time and consideration, I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.