

131st Legislature
Senate of Maine
Senate District 28

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Transportation Committee, Chair
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Testimony of Senator Ben Chipman introducing
LD 401, "An Act to Improve Transportation in Maine"
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation
January 23, 2024

Representative Crafts and Distinguished Colleagues on the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation, I am Senator Ben Chipman, and I represent Senate District 28, which includes part of Portland, including Peaks Island. Today, I am introducing LD 401, "An Act to Improve Transportation in Maine."

The intent of this amendment is twofold: to simplify the process for vehicle inspection and to ensure a sustainable fee structure that supports both vehicle owners and inspection stations. The transportation sector is an integral part of Maine's economy and the daily lives of Mainers. Ensuring that our constituents have access to efficient and equitable vehicle inspection services is paramount in promoting both public safety and economic feasibility.

Section 1 of the proposed amendment seeks to alleviate the burden on new vehicle owners by extending the initial inspection sticker validity for two years. By enacting a two-year validity period for new vehicles, we acknowledge the advanced safety standards and durability of modern vehicles while also saving Mainers valuable time and resources. This adjustment is a common-sense approach to modernizing our vehicle inspection process and aligning it more closely with the realities of today's automotive market.

Section 2 addresses the inspection fee structure. This adjustment recognizes the need to balance the economic sustainability of inspection stations with the convenience provided to vehicle owners through the extended validity of inspection stickers. Section 2 would adjust the fee for inspections to \$25.00 and

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allow the inspection station to retain all of the additional amount collected as a result of the fee adjustment.

This will ensure that inspection stations are fairly compensated for the inspections they perform and this measure is designed to help prevent financial strain on inspection stations, which are essential to our state's transportation safety infrastructure.

LD 401 represents a pragmatic and balanced approach to refining our state's vehicle inspection process that supports the viability of our inspection stations.

I am confident that the implementation of this legislation will be one piece of our work to create a more efficient, fair, and forward-thinking transportation sector in our state.

Thank you for your consideration, and I'd be happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,



Ben Chipman
State Senator, Senate District 28
Representing part of Portland

LD 401 Proposed Amendment
January 23, 2024
Senator Ben Chipman

New bill title: An Act to Improve Maine's Inspection Sticker Program

Amend the bill by striking everything after the enacting clause and inserting the following.

Sec. 1. 29-A MRS §1751, sub-§1-A is enacted to read:

1-A. Two-year inspection for new motor vehicles. Upon the sale of a new motor vehicle by a new vehicle dealer as defined in section 851, subsection 9 that also operates as an inspection station, the new vehicle dealer shall issue the new motor vehicle an inspection sticker that is valid until 2 years after the last day of the month in which it was sold. For the purposes of this subsection, "new motor vehicle" means a motor vehicle of the current model year or model year immediately preceding the current model year that has not been previously registered or titled.

Sec. 2. 29-A MRS §1751, sub-§3-A is repealed.

Sec. 3. 29-A MRS §1751, sub-§3-B is enacted to read:

3-B. Inspection fee. An inspection station may charge a fee of not more than \$25.00 for inspections under this section. An inspection station will retain all of the additional amount collected as a result of this fee adjustment.