



Department of the Secretary of State Bureau of Motor Vehicles

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Secretary of State

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JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

L.D. 2049 “An Act to Increase Safety for Child Welfare Services Workers”

*Testimony Provided by Shenna Bellows, Secretary of State
Department of the Secretary of State*

February 1, 2024

Senator Chipman, Representative Crafts and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation, my name is Shenna Bellows, and I am the Secretary of State and chief motor vehicle officer. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in favor of L.D. 2049 “An Act To Increase Safety for Child Welfare Services Workers.”

Currently, most state vehicles are assigned and display a license plate with a distinct numbering sequence and the designation, “state vehicle” on the bottom of the plate. In most cases this is appropriate. However, we do see this designation could place children in these vehicles or the state employees in the vehicle, in danger under certain circumstances. We believe it is sensible for our agency to issue a license plate to vehicles used for these purposes, that does not have any specific distinguishing features but rather looks like any other license plate owned or operated by the general public.

We reached out to the Department of Health and Human Services and learned this bill this will involve about 50-60 vehicles and therefore, the workload and the production of the plates can be absorbed within our current budget.

Given the recent increase in threats against state officials, we could ask the committee to consider passing this bill as an emergency so we could change the plates right away and not wait 90 days after adjournment.

For these reasons we encourage you to vote this bill out of committee, unanimous ought to pass.