



Timothy Nangle  
Senator, District 26

THE MAINE SENATE  
131st Legislature

3 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

*Testimony of Senator Timothy Nangle introducing*  
**LD 2072, "An Act Regarding the Bureau of Motor Vehicles"**

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

*February 6, 2024*

Senator Chipman, Representative Crafts, and Esteemed Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation, I am Senator Tim Nangle, and I represent Senate District 26, which includes the communities of Windham, Casco, Raymond, Frye Island, and part of Westbrook. I am here to introduce LD 2072, "An Act Regarding the Bureau of Motor Vehicles," on behalf of the Secretary of State and the Bureau of Motor Vehicles.

I am very pleased to sponsor this bill, and I appreciate all the hard work the Department has put into it. I know all of us on this committee are committed to bipartisan improvement of our motor vehicle laws. I see this bill as building upon the goals of providing accessible, timely, and secure motor vehicle services to people in Maine.

The Secretary of State will walk through the technical aspects of the bill in detail, but I want to highlight a few provisions. First, I know all of us have heard a lot from the disabled veterans' community over the last year about the excise tax changes. I appreciate that the Department worked with the Department of Veterans' Services, Maine Revenue Services, Office of the Attorney General, and the municipalities to provide clarity on these issues, but it seems appropriate that this bill goes a step further in supporting our disabled veterans in statute. Veterans will no longer have to choose a plate with the "Disabled Veteran" designation in order to receive the exemption from excise and registration fees, although the underlying requirements remain the same. This will help to decrease stigma and increase accessibility for those veterans who have given much in their service to our country.

The other provision I will highlight is an addition regarding antique autos, which changes the definition of them from 25 to 35 years old "or is more than 25 years old and was registered as an antique vehicle prior to January 2025." You may have heard from constituents who are concerned about losing their existing antique plates, and I have proposed an amendment that grandfathered those already registered under the prior definition. My amendment also addresses concerns raised by the Department of Public Safety about the unintended consequences of changing the farm vehicle statute, so I am deleting those changes from the original bill. Agency bills have traditionally been bipartisan or unanimous reports, and it is my goal to ensure that we have agreement on all of the proposals in my bill as well.



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The second addition includes an update to the transporter plate, which will have a positive impact on towing businesses. I will defer to the Secretary to fully explain this change.

The final addition is to allow licensed physician assistants, nurse practitioners, or registered nurses – in addition to physicians – to issue a placard for someone with a medical condition that exempts them from using a seatbelt. Allowing more than just a physician to issue these placards seems like a logical and efficient change and will not have any adverse consequences.

I understand that a number of the updates to Title 29-A included in this bill started with a constituent raising the issue with one of the committee members or our colleagues here in the Legislature, who in turn brought it to the BMV. I applaud the BMV for being very responsive and open to reviewing their laws and policies to determine whether they made sense when applied to real-life situations. Constituent services are an important part of our work, and when we can then work to prevent those issues from arising in the future, we are truly serving the people of Maine.

Thank you for your time, and I hope you will join me in supporting this Department bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Nangle".

**Tim Nangle**  
State Senator, Senate District 26  
*Casco, Frye Island, Raymond, Windham, and part of Westbrook*