



Department of the Secretary of State Bureau of Motor Vehicles

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TESTIMONY OF SHENNA BELLOWS, SECRETARY OF STATE DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Before the Joint Standing Committees on Appropriations and Financial Affairs
and the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

February 28, 2025

L.D. 210, An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2025, June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027

Senators Rotundo and Nangle, Representatives Gattine and Crafts, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committees on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation, I am Secretary of State Shenna Bellows testifying in support of LD 210 the 2026-2027 Biennial Budget for the Department of the Secretary of State.

The Bureau of Motor Vehicles administers the driver licensing program; provides motor vehicle registrations and titling services; issues international commercial vehicle registrations for vehicles operating interstate; manages the motor vehicle dealer licensing program; oversees driver education; conducts hearings on violations of motor vehicle laws; and provides enforcement services to protect Mainers from identity theft and motor vehicle related crimes. The bureau is completely funded by the Highway Fund. There are no new initiatives for the Bureau of Motor Vehicles in this bill.

On page A-624 of the document in front of you, there is an explanation of the Municipal Excise Tax Fund. This fund is a dedicated, non-lapsing fund established by 29A MRSA, section 533-A (1), collected by BMV. Nonresident owners of certain commercial vehicles operating on Maine roadways pay an apportioned excise tax, deposited into the Excise Tax Reimbursement Fund.

The revenue deposited into this fund is used to reimburse municipalities for certain lost excise tax revenue. Specifically, the Secretary of State reimburses participating municipalities the difference between the amount of excise tax that would have been collected on certain commercial vehicles if the tax was based on the manufacturer's suggested retail price (MSRP), and the actual amount of excise tax that was collected based on the vehicle selling price. Municipal participation in the reimbursement program is optional. Any revenue collected over and above the total amount reimbursed to all participating municipalities reverts to the Highway Fund.

This concludes my testimony on the items included in the Governor's proposed General Fund FY 2026-27 budget. I would be happy to answer questions now or at the work session.

Thank you for your time.