



Timothy Nangle
Senator, District 26

THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Testimony of Senator Tim Nangle introducing
**LD 688, “An Act to Authorize Department of the Secretary of State Law
Enforcement Officers to Initiate a Libel Proceeding Regarding Catalytic
Converters”**

*Before the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary
March 3, 2025*

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, my name is Senator Tim Nangle. I represent Senate District 26, which includes the communities of Windham, Raymond, Casco, Frye Island, and part of Westbrook. I am pleased to present LD 688, which was brought forward at the request of the Secretary of State.

This bill makes a small but practical change to allow sworn law enforcement officers within the Secretary of State’s Enforcement Services Division to represent the Bureau in certain libel proceedings related to seized catalytic converters.

When law enforcement seizes a catalytic converter due to illegal possession, they must file a libel action in court to have it legally forfeited to the state. However, the law does not explicitly allow BMV law enforcement officers to handle these cases themselves. Instead, the process requires the Bureau to get legal representation, which is often unnecessary for more straightforward cases.

LD 688 addresses this by amending Title 4, §807, which prohibits non-lawyers from representing the state in legal matters, to create an exception for BMV law enforcement officers managing these specific cases. This would be akin to how Maine law already permits Marine Patrol Officers to represent the state in certain marine resources forfeiture cases.

This bill does not change how seizures or forfeitures work — it simply enables the BMV to handle the process efficiently. Since this is a Department bill, I will defer to the Secretary of State’s office for technical questions. I appreciate the committee’s time and consideration and urge you to support LD 688. I’m happy to answer any questions I can.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Nangle".

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