



Department of the Secretary of State

Shenna Bellows
Secretary of State

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Testimony of Shenna Bellows, Secretary of State

Department of the Secretary of State

March 24, 2025

Testifying against

L.D. 732 “An Act to Prohibit Copyrights for Works of State Government”

Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government; my name is Shenna Bellows, I live in Manchester, and I am the Secretary of State. I am testifying against L.D. 732.

In addition to the copyright protections for publications as outlined in the testimony provided by the Cultural Affairs Council, which reflects the perspective of Maine State Archives, I would also add that copyright is an important tool regarding license plate designs – and therefore roadway safety.

Currently, there are commercial vendors printing copies of our license plate designs for various purposes. While much of this is not problematic, the issue comes in when vendors sell reproduction plates that look real and cause confusion over what can actually be used on a car. Copyright is an important tool against this confusion or against more blatantly criminal activity.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this information, and I am happy to answer any questions you may have at the work session.