

**Joint Committee on Transportation  
Public Hearing, Month, Day, 2025**

**Written Testimony in Support of Bill 164, An Act to Exempt Authorized  
Emergency Vehicles from Tolls When Operating in an Official Capacity**

Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts and members of the Joint Committee on Transportation.

My name is Dale Rowley, and I live in Winterport. I am the Director of the Waldo County Emergency Management Agency. I am here today to testify in support of the bill. I am also offering suggestions to improve it.

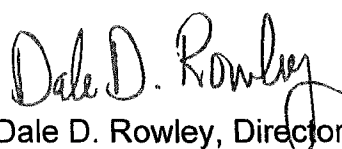
Although Waldo County does not contain a section of the Maine Turnpike, I have responded to emergencies where I have needed to use the Maine Turnpike. All sixteen county emergency management agencies maintain a shared mutual aid agreement with one another and have assisted one another during emergency events. I personally have responded to York County to help staff their Emergency Operations Center during the Mother's Day Floods of 2006. Recently, Penobscot County Emergency Management deployed with an emergency management vehicle and staff to the flooding in North Carolina.

I do believe that emergency response vehicles should be exempt from paying the Turnpike Tolls when responding to an emergency. Taxpayer funds from a county or municipality should not have to be utilized to pay the tolls during a response.

What I would like to see changed with the bill, is to add emergency management to the list of "Authorized Emergency Vehicles" under Title 29-A, section 2054, subsection 1, paragraph B.

Emergency management agencies operate mobile command posts, emergency communications vehicles and trailers, disaster logistics vehicles, and staff response vehicles. If the Emergency Management program is under a fire department or law enforcement department, its vehicles are considered authorized emergency vehicles. However, if the exact same vehicles performing the exact same emergency response mission are operated by a standalone emergency management department, such as a County Emergency Management Agency, they are not considered thus.

I urge the Committee to vote "Ought to Pass", with my suggested changes. I thank you for your time, and I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.



Dale D. Rowley, Director  
Waldo County Emergency Management Agency