



Department of the Secretary of State Bureau of Motor Vehicles

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Secretary of State

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JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

L.D. 348 "An Act to Study the Effect of High-intensity Headlights on Drivers."

Testimony of Shenna Bellows, Secretary of State and
Cathie Curtis, Deputy Secretary for the Bureau of Motor Vehicles,
Department of the Secretary of State

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Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation, I am providing testimony Neither for Nor Against L.D. 348 "An Act to Study the Effect of High-intensity Headlights on Drivers."

The Bureau of Motor Vehicles supports roadway safety by ensuring drivers possess the knowledge, skills and driving history to operate safely and that vehicles meet qualification to be registered and titled.

This bill requires the Department of the Secretary of State, Bureau of Motor Vehicles to convene and staff a group to study the effects of high-intensity headlights on drivers and to report back to this committee its findings and recommendations.

There are Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS) that regulate headlights that are installed in vehicles by manufacturers. However, there are also after-market products such as headlights, available to consumers which are not regulated by these federal standards. It is our understanding that some of these headlights are affecting other drivers when meeting vehicles head-on at night.

While we are committed to supporting roadway safety and we understand the concerns this study is trying to address, our bureau does not regulate vehicle parts or the sale of vehicle parts, nor do we have the expertise to address or solve this problem. We do not oppose this, but we do not believe the Department of the Secretary of State, Bureau of Motor Vehicles is the appropriate agency to lead this effort.

The safety of Maine's road users is of paramount importance to the Department, and it is for these reasons we ask that if you approve this bill, another entity with more expertise in this area is directed to convene and staff the effort. Thank you for your time today and I will be happy to answer any questions.