



**MAINE MUNICIPAL  
ASSOCIATION SINCE 1936**

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Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

**In Opposition To**

*LD 1156 – An Act to Allow Military Vehicles Purchased for Civilian Use to Be Registered and Operated on Maine Roads*

April 1, 2025

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Sen. Nangle, Rep. Crafts, and distinguished members of the Transportation Committee, my name is Rebecca Graham, and I am submitting testimony in opposition to LD 1156 at the direction of MMA's Legislative Policy Committee (LPC). Our LPC is made up of individuals from across Maine with municipal officials elected by their peers across Maine's 35 Senate districts representing communities with very different access to available enforcement resources and local capacity.

This bill attempts to do what MMA already opposed in LD 2, but with greater finesse. A road closed for a parade, as you have already heard, is one time when it is appropriate and possible for demilitarized vehicles to be able to operate on the roadway. Like other vehicles that do not meet inspection standards, they must be trailered and delivered to the location and then operated on the closed road. As drafted, the bill creates a new operation standard of "occasional pleasure driving", which would be impossible to determine or enforce.

Military vehicles are not constructed under the same guidelines as domestic vehicles, usually do not meet federal safety standards of other domestic vehicles operating on the same roads, as such standards are of no use to their intended purpose for combat missions. Their weight, width and crash impact is often not comparable to the other vehicles using the same roads and likely to cause more damage to crumbling roads and edges and further undermine municipally designated shared roadway endeavors to encourage bicycle, pedestrian and traditional horse and buggy use. Selected demilitarized vehicles are allowed only for public safety use and not for everyday operation.

For a multitude of reasons the Association has articulated in previous testimony, officials ask that the committee respectful vote ought not to pass on LD 1156.