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April 3, 2025

*Testimony by Representative Daniel Sayre Presenting*
## L.D. 611, An Act to Allow the Secretary of State to Collect Excise Taxes on Motor Vehicles Owned by Residents Who Are Unhoused
*Joint Standing Committee on Transportation*

Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation. My name is Dan Sayre, and I represent House District 135, the greater part of Kennebunk. I am pleased to present **L.D. 611, An Act to Allow the Secretary of State to Collect Excise Taxes on Motor Vehicles Owned by Residents Who Are Unhoused.**

This is a very simple bill to solve a simple problem.

To operate an automobile in Maine, residents must register their vehicle and pay excise taxes to their municipality. The law (36 MRSA §1484, subsection 3) specifies that: *The excise tax on a motor vehicle owned by an individual resident of this State must be paid in the place where the owner resides. [PL 2007, c. 627, §33 (AMD).]*

I have been informed that a situation arose in which a Maine resident was refused in their attempt to register their vehicle and pay excise tax to their municipality because that resident was unhoused. A person who refuses loses the right to operate their motor vehicle legally, which threatens their ability to make a living and possibly also the loss of the only safe shelter they possess.

The law does not currently provide recourse for a person who refuses. This bill fixes that by adding one sentence to the law:

*If the individual resident of this State has no residing place, the excise tax may be paid directly to the Secretary of State.*

This approach provides a simple means to enable unhoused Mainers to continue to operate their motor vehicles lawfully.

Thank you for your consideration, and I will endeavor to answer any questions you may have.