



## Department of the Secretary of State Bureau of Motor Vehicles

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### JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

#### **L.D. 421 “An Act to Eliminate Barriers to Reentry into the Community After Incarceration by Repealing Certain Driver's License Suspension Provisions”**

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 Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety, I am providing testimony in support of L.D. 421 “An Act to Eliminate Barriers to Reentry into the Community After Incarceration by Repealing Certain Driver's License Suspension Provisions.”

One of the main goals of the Bureau of Motor Vehicles is to increase road safety. With regard to the intersection of road safety – for drivers, vehicle passengers, and other road users – and the effects of drug use, we have two main ways we work towards that. The first, and likely most recognizable, is enforcement of license suspensions and revocations following driving-related incidents. Additionally, the Department's rules which govern any driving privilege restrictions with regard to medical issues, known as the Functional Ability Profiles, has a section specifically regarding Substance Use Disorder.

L.D. 421 does not change either of these important pillars of road safety. Rather, L.D. 421 removes punishments in Maine law which remove someone's ability to operate a vehicle for a non-driving offense. So not only does L.D. 421 not change any current enforcement mechanism with regard to road safety with regard to active substance use, of the potential long-term effects of substance use, it actually moves us closer to the widely-shared ideas that a Mainer's license should indicate who they are, what types of vehicles they are authorized to operate on our roads, and what restrictions are placed on their driving and that non-driving infractions should not affect someone's driving privileges.

Thank you for opportunity to provide this testimony today. I would be happy to answer any questions.