



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Good afternoon Senator Nangle and Representative Crafts and all members of the Transportation Committee,

I am Representative Ann Fredericks and represent House district 143 South Sanford and I request your passage of LD 320, "An Act to Repeal the Annual Motor Vehicle Inspection Requirement" which was established 95 years ago. It has **long** outlived its usefulness. The annual inspection has continued without scientific reason and the cost is another financial hardship for our already strained Mainers. Also complaints of false mechanical findings and predatory behavior of declaring costly and unnecessary repairs prompt Mainers to station shop.

To date, only **ten** states remain with an annual motor vehicle inspection requirement and NH just passed it in the House and awaits Senate approval. The reason for this is states are opting out because the auto industry has made tremendous safety improvements since 1930 and the research data has failed to conclusively prove mechanical defects are a significant cause of motor vehicle accidents nor safety inspection reduce accident rates. Accidents due to component failure are less than 3% nationally. States without inspections have had no spike in accidents due to component failure.

Enhanced safety standards, vehicle durability and technological improvements minimize component failures. The evolution of safety upgrades continue. Some notable safety advancements are leaded gasoline is no longer used and corroding engines, rear brake lights are no longer single bulb, the establishment of anti-collision sensors and vehicle diagnostic indicators which warn the driver of component deficiencies, braking systems are designed to still stop the vehicle in the rare instance of brake line failure and most tires are designed with a provision known as "run flat".

The 2008 National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) report estimates vehicle component failure is 2% of crashes. In a letter to Government Accounting Office (GAO), authored by US Department of Transportation, Office of Secretary of Transportation said ""research is inconclusive on whether vehicle inspection programs significantly decrease crash rates." In GAO 2015 Report of Vehicle Safety Inspections, an examination of crash data after the elimination of annual inspection in two states (New Jersey/ Oklahoma) "in both cases, crashes involving vehicle component failure were generally between 2-3% of all crashes and varied little year to year after the elimination of the inspection program." In the same report, "NHTSA's decision to not devote significant resources to



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State vehicle inspection programs is consistent with research showing that vehicle component failures are a relatively minor contributor to traffic crashes.”

During Covid, 2020 Governor Mills executive order suspended the annual motor vehicle inspection requirement resulting in no uptick in crash rate due to component failure that year or after.

Currently snowbirds and others who register vehicles in states requiring no annual inspection drive along side of us and cause no increase in crash rate due to motor vehicle component failure.

Maine has state law which allows police to enforce equipment violations inclusive of brakes, lights, tires, and more. Furthermore, commercial motor vehicle inspections would not change, as they are required to meet annual federal inspection standards. (See 49CFR396.17, Periodic Inspection)

Lastly, our government does not require a frequency for your physical examinations and should not require this annual inspection. If LD 320 were enacted, car owners can continue to seek a voluntary inspection which may return credibility and value to the process.

There is no statistical difference in crash rates between states with or without government required inspection. I urge the Committee’s laser focus on the absence of empirical data and end this ineffective program. It is no guarantor of Public Safety, and serves only as a financial and time burden to Maine vehicle owners.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ann Fredericks".

Ann Fredericks
State Representative

MAINE VEHICLE SAFETY INSPECTION CHANGES AND IMPROVEMENTS

Ann Fredericks



THE PAST **MANDATORY** *Vehicle Safety Inspections*

- Bill LD 320 The **MANDATORY** yearly car inspections were really very unfair
- NO trust in the findings
- Falsified unneeded auto safety repairs that are almost impossible to prove by the auto repair business at outrageous fees
- The predatory behavior auto repair businesses is unsettling to most drivers
- Many unsettling stories
- Annual threatening to the average driver of the auto safety requirements were and are a continued problem

Time for change

THE FUTURE **VOLUNTARY** *Vehicle Safety Inspections*

- The **VOLUNTARY** solution is the best answer
- The drivers will determine their own fate
- The **VOLUNTARY** system will greatly improve the quality of the vehicle safety inspections
- The auto repair business will be much fairer to the drivers
- The new **VOLUNTARY** safety vehicle inspections will be designed to help the drivers increase the value of their vehicles
- NO jobs will be lost
- The drivers will determine the "sticker"
- Everybody wins
- Trust is restored