



STATE OF MAINE
Department of Public Safety
Maine State Police
Traffic Safety Unit
State House Station 20
Augusta, Maine
04333-0020

JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL SAUSCHUCK
COMMISSIONER

COL. WILLIAM ROSS
CHIEF

LT. COL. BRIAN P. SCOTT
DEPUTY CHIEF

**Testimony of Lt. Bruce Scott
IN SUPPORT OF LD 667**

**An Act to Modernize the Motor Vehicle Inspection Program and
Amend the Law Governing Inspection Fees**

Senator Nangle, Rep. Crafts, and distinguished Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation, my name is Lt. Bruce Scott, and I am the Commanding Officer of the State Police Traffic Safety Unit. I am here today to testify on behalf of the Department of Public Safety and the Maine State Police in Support of LD 667.

This bill is very similar to LD 566 but has the following subtle differences, the fees set by this bill for an inspection would be at 2 ½ times the minimum wage, where LD 266 set the fees at \$20.00 per inspection. Additionally, this bill allows for a station to opt of the electronic inspection program if the station demonstrates an economic hardship that was created as a result of the program. Other than that, these two bills are identical.

Rather than repeat the same testimony that you already heard on LD 566 with me trying to reel in the false information that was being shared about the program, I would like to explain to you why the Motor Vehicle Inspection working group, that was created by LD 284 during the 130th legislature, recommended that the State Police create an electronic inspection program.

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- Most of the states that have a motor vehicle inspection program have an electronic program. The group agreed that electronic inspections are good for consumer protection. It would help to prevent attempted oversell issues and would provide greater accountability with real time over-sight and regulation. E-inspection programs are a great tool for the inspectors as they are plug and play. The inspection information and the vehicle history are documented for ease of recurring annual inspections. It standardizes the process, reduces human error, checks for open recalls on motor vehicles, and can access the pertinent sections of the inspection manual if there is a question on a specific part of the process.
- The ability for stations to print their own inspection stickers on-demand will reduce the theft of inspection stickers. The current Maine Inspection Sticker is being used as a commodity on the black market and is sold for \$100.00 or more, which continues to fuel the drug trade.
- At the present time, Inspection Stickers must be ordered online or by mail. Once an order is received by the Inspection Unit, it must be processed, packaged, and shipped back to the station. When a technician inspects a vehicle, he or she must fill out the back of the Inspection Sticker and the corresponding Stub Sheet by hand. The station is then required to photocopy the Stub Sheets for their records and then mail the original back to the Inspection Unit monthly, where they are then sorted by station numbers and filed in multiple rolling shelving units. Additionally, any vehicle inspected in Cumberland County must also have an additional OBDII form filled out by hand and mailed to Maine DEP. The Inspection Unit sells approximately 1.3 million stickers a year, which means it receives back the same number of Stub Sheets to archive. This is a timely and costly antiquated system that would be greatly enhanced by an electronic program, as there would be no need to order, fill out, copy, mail, sort and file anymore stickers, stub sheets or OBDII forms. The OBDII forms would be electronically generated by the system and automatically forwarded to DEP. This would save approximately \$100,000 a year on postage alone.
- Other states have electronic inspection programs that are much easier than Maine's program for the technicians, the state and the public. These systems walk the technician through the inspection process, prints the inspection sticker and keeps track of inventory so they never run out of stickers. Also, there isn't additional follow-up paperwork

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after the inspection has been performed like is currently required in Maine.

- An E-inspection program would benefit the consumer by reducing fraud and attempted overselling of parts and repair. The consumer would also receive a copy of the vehicle inspection report. The increase in fees for the inspection can be offset by the reduction in unnecessary repairs and by forcing other vehicles into compliance. Thereby reducing the number of crashes, which ultimately saves us all money.
- The centralized database created by the electronic system will provide data to our law makers to better determine the effectiveness of the program and allow them to create appropriate laws surrounding the need or lack thereof, for an inspection program.
- This system, when interfaced with the BMV, could assist in electronic titling, and could help reduce the number of vehicle thefts around the country. This program eliminates the ability for someone to use a fake or altered VIN # when performing an inspection and subsequent registration. The data is automatically imported into the system when the inspecting technician hooks the computer into the OBD II port in the customer's vehicle. Once the VIN # is auto-populated from the vehicle's computer into the e-inspection program and it can't be altered afterwards. After this data is entered for the first time in the system it can be retrieved by any other station thereby shortening up inspection times thereafter.
- An electronic inspection program would also allow the State Police to explore licensing business outside of the State of Maine to perform inspections on motor vehicles they sell to Maine residents.

For these reasons, we urge you to vote in favor of LD 667.

On behalf of the Department of Public Safety and the Maine State Police, I thank you for your time and would be happy to try and answer any questions that you might have.

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