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Testimony on
L.D. 667, “An Act to Modernize the State Motor Vehicle Inspection Program and the Law Governing Inspection Fees”

Presented by
Representative Wayne R. Parry
District 140

Transportation Committee
Tuesday, April 8, 2025

Good afternoon, Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts, and fellow members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation:

I am State Representative Wayne R. Parry, and I proudly represent District 140, Arundel, Dayton, and a portion of Lyman. It is an honor to appear before you today for the purpose of introducing L.D. 667, “*An Act to Modernize the State Motor Vehicle Inspection Program and the Law Governing Inspection Fees*.”

For those that were on the Committee during the 131st Legislature, this is almost the exact same bill that was sponsored by The Honorable Bruce White, who was a member of this panel. The bill passed on a 12-1 vote – *ought to pass as amended* -- and also passed in the House before failing in the Senate.

Like everything in society today, things need to be modernized. The inspection system is no different. I understand that many think we should not have an inspection program at all. I am not one of those people. I am like most people. We get in our cars and drive them. We are not mechanics. If we did not have an inspection program, I would probably get my car fixed when something broke. I look at the inspection sticker as a reminder to get my car looked at periodically.

I also understand many have had bad experiences at inspection garages -- either small shops or car dealers. I have been fortunate over the last 20-25 years to have great small garages to which I have taken my cars. Others are not so lucky. This is, however, where this electronic system will help. This system will hold garages more accountable.

Now to the other part of the bill. Is anyone here making the same as they were 25 years ago? The answer is, “No.” Nevertheless, we have a law that says inspection stations can only charge \$12.50 for a sticker inspection. This rate has been in effect for roughly 25 years. This subject has come up several times since I have been in the Legislature. Accordingly, as you can see in the bill, I have tied the inspection cost a station can charge to minimum wage. When we, as a Legislature, set the \$12.50 fee, the minimum wage was \$5.15 – a difference of nearly 250%. With cost due to inflation and labor, the number should probably be higher. However, even this maybe too much for some.

This system is not new. New Hampshire has a similar system and also allows market rates for stickers, which I believe is around \$50 currently.

I ask myself, “If we are going to have an inspection program, we need to allow stations to actually recoup at least some of their cost.”

In my opinion, the inspection program in Maine makes our roads safer, and like everything else, needs to be modernized. We need to allow those that do the work to get paid.

Thank you, and I would be happy to answer any questions.