



Department of the Secretary of State Bureau of Motor Vehicles

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JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

L.D. 850 "An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicle Laws."

Testimony of Shenna Bellows, Secretary of State and
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Department of the Secretary of State
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Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation, I am providing testimony in support of L.D. 850 "An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicle Laws" which is the department's omnibus bill.

I want to first thank Representative Crafts for sponsoring the bill. As you know, we are leading the bureau through an effort to modernize not only our computer systems but also our paper-based processes and the way we proceed through this evolution. This bill primarily supports the bureau moving forward with electronic systems to replace paper and manual processes.

Section 1 allows the Secretary of State to adopt routine technical rules to administer self-service kiosks such as the fee a vendor may charge per transaction, like the fees charged for on-line transactions. We currently are in the process of finalizing the RFP and expect to go out to bid for 8 kiosks soon. These kiosks will be placed throughout the state. We will certainly keep you informed of our progress on the project as we move forward.

Sections 2, 3, and 4 make technical changes and adds a \$1.00 fee to the electronic lien and title transactions which would be deposited into the Motor Vehicle Service Fund as defined in 29-A MRSA §159. These funds would be used to maintain and expand the program through several progressive phases. During the first year of the electronic lien and title program 23,506 electronic titles were issued.

Section 5 clarifies that the process for our department to dispose of vehicle parts is the same manner as disposing of an entire vehicle. It also clarifies that an owner or lienholder claiming ownership under this paragraph must take possession of the vehicle or vehicle part within 30 days from receipt of notice. It allows the Secretary of State to dispose of a vehicle or vehicle parts in a manner considered appropriate and requires any proceeds from any sale to be deposited in the Motor Vehicle Service Fund.

Sections 6, 7, and 8 defines an electronic temporary plate program and enables the Secretary of State to establish an electronic temporary plate program and adopt routine technical rules to administer the program. Currently, temporary plates are manually recorded by the car dealer and are not entered into the BMV registration database. Therefore, temporary plates cannot be easily queried by law enforcement or the tolling authorities. This would alleviate that problem by getting the temporary plates recorded in the BMV registration database. The temporary plate fee is increased from \$1 to \$2 to support this modernization effort.

And finally, **Section 9** makes the fee increases in sections 4 and 8 of the bill effective on January 1, 2026. Thank you for your time and I would be happy to answer your questions.