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Testimony of Rep. David Boyer introducing

LD 1360, An Act to Preserve Traditional Driver's Licenses and Nondriver Identification Cards

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

April 15, 2025

Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts, and esteemed members of the Committee on Transportation, my name is Rep. David Boyer, and I am proud to present LD 1360, An Act to Preserve Traditional Driver's Licenses and Nondriver Identification Cards.

This bill would preserve Maine citizens' choice on whether they would like a REAL ID compliant identification card. Mainers value their privacy, and this legislation is a recognition that many Mainers have no plan to obtain a REAL ID.

In today's world, identification is essential, yet not every resident has the same needs. For those who travel frequently or require access to federal buildings, a REAL ID compliant license is critical, and this bill ensures they can obtain one. However, many others—those who don't travel by air or who rarely interact with federal facilities—may not need a REAL ID. This legislation respects that diversity by offering both options, allowing Maine residents to choose the identification that best fits their lifestyle.

While an alternative is still being offered by our Secretary of State, this issue is important enough that the alternative should be enshrined in our law. We use our IDs for many things every day: driving, picking up prescriptions, conducting financial transactions, and more. Requiring Mainers to get a REAL ID for these activities is overly restrictive and burdensome. What policy goals are being realized by forcing this?

This legislation is a practical and principled response to a complex issue. It preserves Maine citizens' choice, respects their privacy, and avoids the unnecessary burden of mandating REAL ID for everyday life.