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April 22, 2025

Testimony of Rep. Tiffany Roberts presenting
LD 446, An Act Regarding Driver Education
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

Good afternoon, Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts, and esteemed members of the Transportation Committee. I am Tiffany Roberts, and I represent House District 149, which includes parts of North and South Berwick. Thank you for the opportunity to present **LD 446, An Act Regarding Driver Education.**

This bill seeks to implement recommendations of the Driver Education Working Group, which was originally convened by legislation I sponsored in 2023 and was reauthorized by this committee last year.

I submitted the bill as a concept draft in anticipation of the group's report, and today I am presenting an amendment that incorporates their recommendations. The amendment was distributed to the committee and interested parties by email on April 17, and I am also attaching it to my testimony for your reference.

The amendment establishes the Driver Education Cost Reimbursement Program and a special revenue account by the same name to fund it beginning on Jan. 1, 2027. It authorizes the Secretary of State to adopt rules to implement both the fund and program, and it requires the Secretary of State to submit an annual report on the program to this committee beginning in 2028.

After years of working on this issue, I am proud to propose this solution to the challenges to accessing driver education. I ask the committee to support LD 446 and am happy to answer any questions you may have for me.

Sponsor's amendment to concept draft bill, LD 446 (Rep. Roberts)

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the summary and inserting the following:

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 29-A §1351-A is enacted to read:

§1351-A. Driver education cost reimbursement fund and program

    1. Fund established. The Driver Education Cost Reimbursement Fund is established as a dedicated, nonlapsing fund. The fund is administered by the Secretary of State. All money credited to the fund must be used deposited in an other special revenue account for the Driver Education Cost Reimbursement program established in subsection 2.

    2. Program established. Beginning January 1, 2027, the Secretary of State shall establish a Driver Education Cost Reimbursement program to provide funding for students in underserved populations and low-income families to complete driver education as required in section 1351, subsection 1.

    3. Rules. The Secretary of State shall adopt rules to implement and enforce the requirements of this section. Rules adopted under this paragraph must include, but are not limited to, the program description, the eligibility criteria, the application process, an appeal process, the process for reimbursing driver education school and audit recommendations. Rules adopted under this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

    4. Annual report. By January 2 of each year, beginning in 2028, the Bureau of Motor Vehicles shall submit an annual program summary report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over transportation matters.

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SUMMARY

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    This amendment establishes the Driver Education Cost Reimbursement Fund as an other special revenue account to provide funding to the Driver Education Cost Reimbursement Program which is also established in the amendment, beginning on January 1, 2027. The amendment allows the Secretary of State to adopt routine technical rules to implement and enforce the fund and program. The amendment also requires, beginning in 2028, the Secretary of State to submit an submit an annual program summary report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over transportation matters.