

LD 1714 Public Hearing 04.22.2025

Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

Good afternoon, I am Lewis Williams and reside in Hebron, Maine.

I must make a disclaimer before starting, even though being a 20+ year Board member of MSAD 17 Oxford Hill School District and 10+year member of Region11 Oxford Hill Technical School, I DO NOT speak for either school unit.

Most School Districts in the State of Maine are in short supply of Bus Drivers. LD 1714 might be a means to retain more people in that profession. The thought behind this proposal is unique in that, a Bus Driver is a Bus Driver. Today when someone obtains a School Bus License, that also provides a Commercial Drivers' License, CDL. This allows that person to operate any Class Two truck, and Commercial Bus such as a Gray Hound Transport, without further training. A person holding a Class Two or Three CDL is required to do special training and testing, written and road, before operating any School Bus. This also applies to a Person holding a CDL License wanting to operate a Motorcycle, special training and road tests.

School Buses are not like any other vehicle on the Highways and the operators are specially trained for that one purpose. No other unit on our Highways have the same requirements; must be Yellow, have SCHOOL BUS and 4" amber warning and 4" red stop lights front and back, can stop traffic to pick up and discharge students.

This requires special training and should not require a CDL.

With the passing of LD 1714, the retention of more School Bus Drivers may be accomplished.

Thank you for your time,

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