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THE MAINE SENATE
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Testimony of Senator Tim Nangle introducing
**LD 1377, “Resolve, to Convene a Working Group to Evaluate Potential Regulation
of the Vehicle Towing Industry and the Impact on State Agencies and Industries”**
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation
April 23, 2025

Representative Crafts and distinguished colleagues of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation, as you know, my name is Tim Nangle, and I proudly represent Senate District 26, which includes Casco, Frye Island, Raymond, Windham, and part of Westbrook. Today, I am presenting LD 1377, a “Resolve, to Convene a Working Group to Evaluate Potential Regulation of the Vehicle Towing Industry and the Impact on State Agencies and Industries.”

The Secretary of State’s Office has expressed a desire to study this issue, as they have received increasing reports and concerns regarding towing practices in Maine. As many Mainers know all too well, when a vehicle is towed — whether from a roadside breakdown, a crash scene, or a private parking lot — it can lead to significant disruption. The cost of towing, storage fees, unclear processes for reclaiming vehicles, and a lack of standardization can result in both financial and logistical hardship for people who rely on their vehicles for everyday life.

At the same time, the towing industry intersects with numerous other sectors, including financial institutions, insurance companies, law enforcement, and many more. Each of these stakeholders faces different challenges related to how the towing industry operates, and many are unclear about the level of oversight, if any, that exists. LD 1377 recognizes that this is a systems-level issue and that meaningful solutions will require collaboration across these sectors.

This bill would establish a working group to comprehensively study the problem. The working group will bring together representatives from the towing industry, law enforcement, legal aid, the consumer protection division of the Attorney General’s Office, insurance, credit unions, and others to examine potential regulatory approaches to protect consumers from predatory or irresponsible practices. Additionally, the group will evaluate how any such regulations might be enforced effectively and consider how these changes would impact not only the represented agencies and industries but also Maine citizens.

The working group is tasked with reporting back to this committee by December 3rd with its findings and any recommended legislation. The goal here is not to rush to judgment, but to take the time to understand the scope of the issue and arrive at solutions that are thoughtful, balanced, and enforceable.

Thank you for your attention, and I respectfully ask for your support of LD 1377. I’m happy to answer any questions you may have.