



Timothy Nangle
Senator, District 26

THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Testimony of Senator Tim Nangle introducing
LD 1642, “An Act to Protect Maine Consumers by Simplifying Subscription Cancellations”

*Before the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development
April 24, 2025*

Senator Curry, Representative Gere, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development, I am Senator Tim Nangle. I represent Senate District 26, which includes the communities of Windham, Raymond, Casco, Frye Island, and part of Westbrook. I am pleased to present LD 1642, “An Act to Protect Maine Consumers by Simplifying Subscription Cancellations.”

This bill is about making sure that Mainers can leave a subscription as easily as they joined it. It addresses a frustrating, all-too-common experience for consumers: signing up for a service online with a few quick clicks, but then finding that canceling it requires navigating a maze of paperwork, in-person visits, or hard-to-reach customer service representatives. Whether it’s a gym membership, a streaming service, or a recurring app subscription, this bill clarifies that consent must be affirmative, disclosures must be upfront, and cancellation must be simple.

We’ve worked closely with the Revisor’s Office to mirror the Federal Trade Commission’s recently finalized “click to cancel” rule, ensuring our language aligns with emerging national standards. LD 1642 requires sellers to obtain affirmative consent before charging for automatic renewals, mandates clear and conspicuous disclosures of all material terms, and ensures that consumers can cancel their subscriptions using the same method and manner they used to enroll.

This bill also adds important enforcement tools. It authorizes the Attorney General to adopt rules and pursue enforcement actions for violations of this chapter. It provides meaningful remedies for consumers, including a refund or credit worth three times the amount of any unauthorized charges.

Importantly, this law only applies to subscription agreements entered into or renewed on or after January 1, 2026, giving businesses time to adjust while setting a clear expectation for fair practice going forward.

I want to point out that the current draft, consistent with existing statute, does not yet cover certain physical memberships, such as gyms, which often operate with the same automatic renewal model. For example, companies like Planet Fitness — where you can sign up online or in an app in under two minutes — can still require you to cancel in person, where staff may pressure you to stay or confuse you with contracts you barely remember signing.



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That's not transparency — that's entrapment. In the coming days, I plan to work with the committee analyst on a sponsor's amendment to extend similar protections to these types of memberships and ensure Mainers have consistent consumer rights across industries.

Finally, I want to explain why we believe it's so essential to codify these protections in Maine law, even as a federal rule is already in place. FTC rules can change with the political winds. They can be delayed, weakened, or repealed outright by future administrations. Here in Maine, we don't believe fairness in the marketplace should depend on who's in charge in Washington. By enshrining this policy into state law, we make clear that these values — transparency, honesty, and respect for consumer choice — are our values. They're Maine values. And they deserve a permanent place in our laws.

LD 1642 doesn't prohibit businesses from offering automatic renewals. It just ensures they do so fairly, and that consumers can make informed decisions about where their money goes. That's what Mainers expect, and that's what they deserve.

I welcome the committee's questions and look forward to working together to finalize a bill that protects consumers in a balanced, enforceable, and forward-looking way.

Thank you.

Tim Nangle
State Senator, Senate District 26
Representing Casco, Frye Island, Raymond, Windham, and part of Westbrook