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LD 1468: An Act to Establish Standards for Independent Motor Vehicle Repair Facilities in Maine

Sponsor: Representative Amanda Collamore April 29, 2025

Senator Curry, Representative Gere, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development, my name is Amanda Collamore and I have the great honor of representing House District 68, Pittsfield, Clinton, Burnham, and Troy. I stand before you today to present LD 1468: An Act to Establish Standards for Independent Motor Vehicle Repair Facilities in Maine.

This is an emergency measure that reflects the **urgent need to protect the safety and security** of Maine's drivers as our vehicles become increasingly complex and connected. Specifically, this bill addresses a growing risk area: **telematics**.

As you know, Maine has taken bold steps to require consumer and independent entity access to vehicle telematics data. With it comes a serious responsibility. When access is granted to sophisticated systems in modern vehicles—including brake control, steering sensors, crash-avoidance systems, and real-time diagnostics—it is essential that the technicians and facilities handling that data **meet clear standards**.

Telematics systems are not just convenience features. They are deeply integrated into **critical** safety operations of the vehicle. If a repair facility accesses or modifies a system without the appropriate training, certification, or tools, it's not just a bad repair—it's a potential threat to driver safety and even cybersecurity.

That is why this legislation is so important.

LD 1468 establishes common-sense, enforceable standards for **independent repair facilities**—those who claim to meet manufacturer repair protocols. It ensures that:

- Facilities handling vehicles with telematics and advanced systems have the infrastructure and diagnostic tools to do so safely;
- Technicians are certified and trained specifically on modern systems, including Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS) and electric vehicles;
- Ongoing education is required, so as technologies evolve, our repair capabilities in Maine evolve with them;

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• The public has access to a registry of certified facilities, and the Secretary of State can conduct audits and respond to complaints.

This bill does not limit consumer choice. It does not restrict independent repair. It simply says: If a facility wants to work on high-tech systems that impact how a car steers, brakes, or communicates, they must be qualified to do it.

Without standards, we are opening the door to:

- Improper repairs on vehicles with sensitive systems;
- Exposure of personal and location data through unsecured telematics networks;
- Voided warranties and safety risks on our roads.

By passing this bill, we protect the right to repair, while also protecting the right to safe, secure, and properly performed repairs—especially when telematics are involved.

This is a forward-thinking, safety-first policy that aligns with our commitment to both consumer access and consumer protection in the digital age of transportation.

I respectfully urge the committee to support this bill and vote "Ought to Pass."

Thank you, and I welcome your questions.