



Department of the Secretary of State Bureau of Motor Vehicles

Shenna Bellows
Secretary of State

Catherine Curtis
Deputy Secretary of State

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

L.D. 1732 “An Act to Allow a Municipality to Waive the Excise Tax on an Antique Automobile Owned by a Person 65 Years of Age or Older”

Testimony of Shenna Bellows, Secretary of State and
Cathie Curtis, Deputy Secretary for the Bureau of Motor Vehicles,
Department of the Secretary of State

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Senator Grohoski, Representative Cloutier, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation, I am providing testimony respectfully neither for nor against of L.D. 1732 “An Act to Allow a Municipality to Waive the Excise Tax on an Antique Automobile Owned by a Person 65 Years of Age or Older.”

This bill allows a municipality to waive the excise tax on antique automobiles when the registered owner is 65 years of age or older.

Excise tax is a municipal tax and is retained by the municipality. Payment of excise tax is simply a prerequisite to a motor vehicle registration. The Secretary of State’s office does not have authority over excise tax nor does excise tax from Maine residents go to the Highway Fund. Therefore, the Secretary of State’s office does not have an opinion regarding municipalities exempting their residents who are 65 years old or older from excise tax on antique automobiles.

However, we would like to provide some information that may be helpful.

The average model year of an antique automobiles registered in Maine is 1976, with the average excise tax amount being \$43.68. The average age of a Maine resident who registers an antique automobile is 52 years old.

Thank you for your time today and I will be happy to answer any questions.