



Timothy Nangle  
Senator, District 26

THE MAINE SENATE  
132nd Legislature

3 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

*Testimony of Senator Tim Nangle introducing*  
**LD 1794, "An Act to Provide Protection from Unfair Parking Tickets on Lots  
Accessible to the Public,"**

*Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services  
May 7, 2025*

Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services, my name is Tim Nangle. I proudly represent Senate District 26, which includes the communities of Casco, Frye Island, Raymond, Windham, and part of Westbrook. Today, I am presenting LD 1794, "**An Act to Provide Protection from Unfair Parking Tickets on Lots Accessible to the Public.**"

This bill was inspired by concerns I heard from my constituents about unexpected parking fines and unclear enforcement practices at the University of Southern Maine (USM) in Gorham. In USM's case, the parking enforcement is done by Parking Revenue Recovery Services (PRRS), a private company based in Colorado that USM contracted with to run its parking enforcement. In 2024, PRRS settled with Colorado's attorney general for \$75,000 over allegations that they violated Colorado's Fair Debt Collection Practices Act.

Students shared a few stories in a *Portland Press Herald* article in April 2024.<sup>1</sup> One USM student received 53 parking tickets totaling nearly \$3,000. The student said he had no idea he was violating any parking rules and only found out when the stack of tickets arrived in the mail months later, leaving him with no real opportunity to change his behavior or dispute the charges. Another student reported getting a ticket when his car was snowed in and he couldn't move it, but gave up on trying to dispute the charge after waiting on hold for nearly 20 minutes.

Since then, USM has taken steps to address concerns with better signage and pay-for-parking kiosks that do not require a smartphone to use. However, there are still issues that need to be addressed and, importantly, this is not just a USM problem. The Maine Attorney General's office has told us they are receiving similar complaints from across the state about unfair and aggressive parking enforcement. This is why I am also presenting an amendment for the committee to consider, which was drafted in consultation with the AG's office. They support this amended version, which tightens the language to ensure that parking operators follow clear, consumer-friendly standards that protect drivers from surprise fees and aggressive ticket collection tactics.

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<sup>1</sup> Access the article online at:  
<https://www.pressherald.com/2024/04/08/students-say-new-usm-parking-system-has-cost-them-thousands-of-dollars-in-fines/>



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The bill itself is relatively short, but it includes several key consumer protections that I'd like to walk through, section by section, to make clear exactly what this legislation does and how it addresses the problems I just described.

**Section 1 — Reasonable and Conspicuously Posted Fines**

First, the bill requires that any fine, fee, or charge for a parking violation on public property be reasonable and clearly posted. Specifically, it limits fines to no more than twice the original parking fee, ensuring that penalties are proportionate and not excessively punitive. It also requires that these fines be prominently displayed at entrances and exits, so drivers know what to expect before they park.

This section is critical because it addresses one of the most common complaints about automated parking systems: the lack of clear, upfront information about potential fines. Drivers shouldn't have to guess what a violation might cost them or discover after the fact that a minor mistake has resulted in an outsized penalty.

**Section 2 — Written and Affixed Notice of Violation**

Next, the bill requires that any parking violation notice be issued at the time and place of the violation, rather than being sent in the mail weeks later. The notice must be physically affixed to the vehicle and include basic information like:

- The date and time of the violation.
- A description of the rule violated.
- The amount of the fine and the payment deadline, which must be at least 10 business days from the violation date.
- Clear payment instructions.
- Contact information for the entity responsible for collecting the fine.

This section is one of the most important parts to me because it's a direct response to complaints about delayed and confusing fines. It ensures that drivers have a fair chance to address the issue while the circumstances are still fresh, rather than being caught off guard by a bill in the mail weeks later. In the cases where it's not a mistake by the automated system and the driver is at fault, receiving notice up front gives them a chance to correct the behavior before they receive more tickets.

**Section 3 — Protecting Credit**

The bill also prohibits parking violations from being reported to credit agencies. This is a crucial consumer protection, as a single unpaid parking fine should not have the power to damage a person's credit score, potentially affecting their ability to secure loans, buy a car, start a business, rent an



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apartment, and more. This financial harm is excessive compared to the violation and creates unnecessary hardship for Maine drivers.

**Section 4 — Regulating Automated License Plate Recognition Systems**

The bill would bring parking enforcement in line with existing state law regarding the use of automated license plate recognition (ALPR) systems for parking enforcement. Under this bill, the use of ALPRs would be prohibited except in certain circumstances already outlined in existing law. These systems can be effective tools, but they also raise serious privacy concerns if used without proper oversight. This section ensures that any use of ALPR technology is consistent with Maine's broader privacy protections, limiting the risk of invasive tracking and data misuse.

**Section 5 — Meaningful Remedies for Violations**

The bill also includes strong enforcement mechanisms by making any violation of these standards an "unfair trade practice" under the Maine Unfair Trade Practices Act. This gives drivers a meaningful way to get support if their rights are violated, including the ability to recover three times the amount of any improper fine, fee, or charge. This is an important part of the bill, as it creates a real deterrent against intentionally abusive enforcement practices.

**Section 6 — Clarifying Liability**

Finally, the bill clarifies that it does not create civil liability for vehicle owners solely because their vehicle was parked in violation of a rule. This protects innocent vehicle owners from being unfairly held responsible for violations committed by others, such as a family member or friend borrowing their vehicle.

Together, these six sections create a balanced, common-sense approach to parking enforcement that protects consumers without placing unreasonable burdens on property owners. It's a straightforward bill that addresses a real problem Mainers, especially cost-burdened students, are facing.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have.

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



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LD 1794 – Sponsor’s Amendment

Amend the bill by striking all text after the enacting clause and replacing it with the following:

**CHAPTER 239**

**ENFORCEMENT OF PARKING VIOLATIONS ON LOTS ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC**

**§1500-Z. Enforcement of parking violations on property accessible to the public.**

A person or entity that owns, operates, or manages property accessible by the general public for the parking of motor vehicles, or that provides collection or enforcement services with respect thereto, may not impose, assess, or seek to enforce or collect any fine, fee, or charge to any person for the violation of any parking rule applicable to said property except in compliance with this section.

- 1. Fine, fee, or charge amount must be reasonable and conspicuously posted.** The amount of any fine, fee, or charge to any person for the violation of any parking rule applicable to property accessible by the general public for the parking of motor vehicles must be reasonable and must be conspicuously and prominently posted within the property such that it is viewable by a person entering and exiting the property in a motor vehicle. The amount of any fine, fee, or charge to any person for the violation of any parking rule applicable to property accessible by the general public may not exceed an amount that is two times what that person was required to pay to park at the property.
- 2. Written and affixed notice of violation required.** Written notice of violation of any parking rule applicable to property accessible by the general public for the parking of motor vehicles, including the failure to pay an amount of money to park a motor vehicle, must be affixed to the motor vehicle at the time of violation. At a minimum, the written notice must include the following information:
  - a. The date and time of the violation;
  - b. The nature of the violation, including the rule violated;
  - c. The amount of the fine, fee, or charge for the violation and the date by which it must be paid, which date must be at least 10 business days after the date of the violation;
  - d. Payment instructions; and
  - e. Contact information for the person or entity responsible for collecting the fine, fee, or charge for the violation.
- 3. Notice to credit reporting agencies prohibited.** Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, any fine, fee, or charge for the violation of any parking rule applicable to property accessible



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by the general public for the parking of motor vehicles may not be reported to a credit reporting agency or credit bureau.

4. **Use of automated license plate recognition system prohibited.** The provisions of 29-A M.R.S.A. § 2117-A apply to the use of an automated license plate recognition system at a property accessible by the general public for the parking of motor vehicles, subject to the exceptions enumerated therein.

5. **Violation; Remedies.** A violation of this section is an unfair trade practice in violation of 5 M.R.S.A. § 207. In addition to any remedies available under the Unfair Trade Practices Act, a claimant may obtain an award of damages equal to three times the amount of a fine, fee, or charge assessed, imposed, or sought to be enforced in violation of this section.

6. **Construction.** Nothing in this section may be construed to establish the civil liability of a person by virtue of that person's ownership of a vehicle parked in violation of any parking rule at a property accessible by the general public for the parking of motor vehicles.