

132nd Legislature
Senate of
Maine
Senate District 2

Senator Harold 'Trey' Stewart, III
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LD 2047, "Resolve, Regarding Online Driver Education"
Joint Standing Committee on Transportation
January 15, 2026

Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts and Distinguished Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation:

I am Trey Stewart; and I represent Senate District 2, which includes several municipalities in Aroostook and Penobscot Counties. Upon a request from a constituent, my initial intent was to present supporting testimony for LD 2047, "*Resolve, Regarding Online Driver Education,*" however, following conversations with the Secretary of State's Office, I feel it is best to encourage you to vote this bill out *Ought Not To Pass*.

It is my understanding that the Bureau of Motor Vehicles is currently in the process of updating their rules governing driver education. This process will include digital instruction, which covers online driver's education. I trust the Bureau will carefully consider all points of view offered during the public comment period and develop an affordable, quality curriculum that is safe and accessible.

Maine law requires that driver's education can only be administered by schools and instructors that are licensed by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles and I'm told that roughly 85% of licensed schools offer some form of blended curriculum. At this time digital instruction must be in conjunction with traditional classroom instruction. I am confident the rulemaking process will be adequate and result in the best path forward that will better accommodate rural Mainers who seek to participate in driver's education.

Again, I believe it is best at this time to vote this bill out *Ought Not To Pass*.

Thank you.