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Testimony of Rep. Lydia Crafts presenting

LD 2053, An Act to Improve Safety by Allowing the Use of Variable-message Signs on Public Service Vehicles

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

Good morning, Senator Nangle and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation. My name is Lydia Crafts, and I represent House District 46, which includes Bristol, Damariscotta, Monhegan Plantation, Newcastle and Nobleboro. Today, I am pleased to present **LD 2053, An Act to Improve Safety by Allowing the Use of Variable-message Signs on Public Service Vehicles**.

This policy adjusts Section 29-A to allow for the use of variable message boards alerting the public to information regarding driving conditions (congestion, accidents, maintenance, weather, etc). I have worked with the Departments of Public Safety and Transportation along with AAA to find language that satisfies the intent of the bill while maintaining safe roads and enforceable policies.

You will hear more from stakeholders about the bill's intent and implementation and the amended language. Thank you for your consideration and I am happy to answer any questions.

Sec. 2. 29-A MRSA §2054, sub-§12 is enacted to read:

12. Variable-message signs. The operator of an authorized public service vehicle may use a variable-message sign on the authorized public service wrecker vehicle while the vehicle is stationary and engaged in roadside repair, loading or unloading a vehicle, vehicle recovery, to provide information about traffic congestion, traffic accidents, maintenance operations, adverse weather conditions, or roadway conditions.

12-A. The operator of a police vehicle, fire department vehicle, or highway maintenance vehicle may use a variable-message sign on the authorized police vehicle, fire department vehicle or highway maintenance vehicle to provide information about traffic congestion, traffic accidents, maintenance operations, adverse weather conditions, roadway conditions, organized events or other roadway safety information, necessary information. These types of messages are limited to the rear of the vehicle, and may not exceed the height of the vehicle. These types of messages are limited to the rear of the vehicle. The Commissioner of Public Safety, with the consent of the Chief of the Maine State Police, may adopt rules as necessary for the purpose of implementing this subsection. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

11 Definitions 64-A1 Safety Service Patrol vehicle is a specially equipped vehicle authorized by the Maine State Police Authority to assist with Traffic incidents.