



## 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 TRANSPORTATION

#### **L.D. 2213, An Act Making Unified Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, Highway Fund and Other Funds, and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2026 and June 30, 2027**

Shenna Bellows, Secretary of State

Department of the Secretary of State, Bureau of Motor Vehicles

March 5, 2026

Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts, and distinguished Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation, my name is Shenna Bellows. I am the Secretary of State. I am here today to present testimony in support of those items presented in the Supplemental Budget for the Department Secretary of State.

As you know, the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) serves the public with accessible, timely, and secure motor vehicle services to enhance quality of life and opportunity for people in Maine while supporting and contributing to roadway safety. The Bureau's role and responsibilities have grown considerably over the years. It is responsible for licensing and monitoring drivers, renewing licenses and IDs, registering and titling vehicles, licensing driver education schools and instructors, licensing vehicle and trailer dealers and managing all motor carrier programs. The Bureau provides services at the main office in Augusta, 13 branch office locations, 23 testing CDL locations, 16 non-commercial examination locations throughout the State, and through a suite of online services. Additionally, 516 municipalities and 12 non-governmental agents offer registration services to residents and non-residents of this State.

There are 9 initiatives for the Department which begin on page 6 **Sec. A-2** of the Budget Document. Each of these initiatives also coincides with a 2026-2027 Supplemental Budget.

**Initiative 1 Ref. #: 16**, provides funding for the approved reclassification of 3 Accounting Associate I positions to Office Associate II positions to account for the additional responsibilities of the positions. The Personal Services request is **\$16,241 in FY2026-27**. This management-initiated reclassification was approved on October 10, 2024.

**Initiative 2 Ref. #: 17**, provides funding for the approved reclassification of 1 Office Associate II to an Office Associate II Supervisor position due to additional responsibilities. The Personnel Services request is **\$5,392 in FY2026-27**. This management-initiated reclassification was approved on December 5, 2024.

**Initiative 3 Ref. #: 18** provides funding for the approved reclassification of 1 Senior Technical Support Specialist position to a Systems Section Manager position due to additional responsibilities. The Personnel Services request is **\$11,942 in FY2026-27** This management-initiated reclassification was approved on March 10, 2025.

**Initiative 4 Ref. #: 19** provides funding for the approved reclassification of 1 Program Audit Manager position from a range 27 to a range 28 due to additional responsibilities. The Personnel Services request is **\$4,333 in FY2026-27** This management-initiated reclassification was approved on June 30, 2025.

**Initiative 5 Ref. #: 20** provides funding for the approved reclassification of 8 Office Associate I positions to Office Associate II positions to better reflect the additional duties and responsibilities of the positions. The Personal Services request is **\$44,072 in FY2026-27**. This management-initiated reclassification was approved on September 23, 2025.

**Initiative 6 Ref. #: 21** provides funding for the approved reclassification of 1 Accounting Associate I position to a Business Manager I position due to additional responsibilities. The Personnel Services request is **\$13,580 in FY2026-27** This management-initiated reclassification was approved on October 24, 2025.

**Initiative 7 Ref. #: 22** provides funding for the approved reclassification of one Office Associate I position to a Management Analyst II position to account for the additional duties and responsibilities of the position. The Personal Services request is **\$14,441 in FY2026-27**. This management-initiated reclassification was approved on December 11, 2025.

**Initiative 8 Ref. #: 23** provides funding for the approved reclassification of one Clerk IV position to an Office Specialist Supervisor position to account for the additional responsibilities and scope of responsibility. The Personal Services request is for **\$7,810 in FY2026-27**. This management-initiated reclassification was approved on December 12, 2025.

**Initiative 9 Ref. #: 24** provides funding for the approved reclassification of one Public Service Coordinator I position to a Public Service Manager II position to account for the additional duties and responsibilities of the position. The Personal Services request is **\$10,680 in FY2026-27**. This management-initiated reclassification was approved on December 12, 2025.

**Page 21 in the budget document, Part C, Sec. C-1.**

**Sec. C-1. Carrying provision; Department of the Secretary of State, Administration - Motor Vehicles program.** Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the State Controller shall carry forward up to \$2,500,000 in unexpended balances in the Personal Services and All Other line categories in the Department of the Secretary of State, Administration - Motor Vehicles program, after all financial commitments for obligations and budgetary adjustments have been made, at the end of fiscal year 2025-26 to the next fiscal year to the All Other line category in the Department of the Secretary of State, Administration - Motor Vehicles program, to be used to continue the Bureau of Motor Vehicles modernization of systems and services provided to the public. These funds do not lapse and are intended to carry until expended.

In essence, we are continuing to self-fund the modernization efforts within the BMV to update technology to improve the security, reliability, and services we provide to just about every household in Maine. I am proud to report that we achieved significant milestones in that effort last year and are poised to hit more again this year. Notably, we successfully launched the State-to-State system which automates communication between our driver license system and other states' driver license systems across the country to improve road safety and crack down on fraud. We also launched online REAL ID-compliant credentials so that customers do not have to come to a branch to renew their license or ID just because it is REAL ID-compliant. This is a convenience for customers across the board by allowing more customers to conduct their business with the Bureau at their convenience on their own devices, and also to all customers by helping to cut down on wait times for either scheduled appointments or walk-in service. We also expanded our contact center capabilities and updated our website to best assist customers. We also completed the development work to modernize our driver license system. We are now in the final stages of testing and tweaking the system and plan to go live with the system this summer.

With the funding in this Part C, we will remain on track to launch the new driver license system. And then the next major update (phase 2) will expand electronic titling capabilities and launch our new Mobile Unit with up-to-date technology. Once phase 2 is completed, we will begin phase 3, which includes modernizing our vehicle registration and title system functionality.

Again, these carry-over funds are vital for the BMV to continue with modernization efforts so that the BMV can provide the basic services Mainers expect – and with increased efficiency and cybersecurity protections.

Finally, I would like to explain that **Part D on page 22** of the budget document was inadvertently included by the Bureau of the Budget in the Highway Fund supplemental budget, rather than the General Fund. We are in contact with DAFS about moving the language to the correct budget document in a potential change package.

This concludes my testimony on the items included in the Governor's proposed Supplemental Budget. I would be happy to answer questions now or at the work session. Thank you for your time.