

Larry Dansinger  
Bangor  
LD 1604

January 30, 2022

To Members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee:

I am writing in support of LD 1604, Part B. I am not a hunter and do not feel qualified to comment on Part A.

I have also written in support of LD 1479, which also address similar motor vehicle infractions. Here is that comment:

“LD 1479 focuses on vehicle and driving infractions that primarily target people with low incomes who may be dependent on their vehicles to get to a job. These infractions should not be used to prevent individuals from making a living; it is discriminatory and an attack on some members of our community, often those who do “essential” jobs that legislators and others depend on.

Research

(<https://www.cnn.com/2020/02/26/world/expensive-car-drivers-study-scli-scen-intl/index.html>) has demonstrated that those driving expensive vehicles who are least likely to be charged with the infractions noted in LD 1479 who are the most dangerous to others on the road.

Please support LD 1479.”

In addition, regarding LD 1604, changing the infractions noted in Part B from Class E crimes to fines makes sense because these have little to no impact on the ability of drivers to drive safely. Again, the primary individuals who are the recipients of these charges are low to moderate income and, in most cases, need their vehicle to earn a living. In some cases, they may wind up in jail or jam up our legal system, which is already overloaded. It is a complete waste of human potential to charge someone with a Class E crime when a fine is just as effective, if not more so, as a deterrent.

Maintaining these laws in their current status as Class E crimes will create more poverty, cause more dependence on public assistance programs, increase family instability, damage child welfare, hurt our economy, and create additional burdens for Maine taxpayers.

Please support changes in the law as reflected in Part B of LD 1604.

Sincerely,

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