



Shenna Bellows
Secretary of State

*Department of
the Secretary of State
Bureau of Motor Vehicles*

Catherine Curtis
Deputy Secretary of State

David W. Guilmette
Director, Division of Enforcement,
Anti-Theft and Regulations

**Testimony of Shenna Bellows Secretary of State
Department of the Secretary of State
In support of L.D. 645, "Resolve to Create an Electronic Titling Work Group"
Joint Standing Committee on Transportation**

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

Senator Diamond, Representative Martin and distinguished Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation, my name is Shenna Bellows and I am the Secretary of State. I am here today to testify on behalf of the bureau in support of L.D. 645, "Resolve, To Create an Electronic Titling Work Group"

The Bureau of Motor Vehicles is in favor of the formation of a working group consisting of government representatives and industry stakeholders for the purposes of exploring the development and implementation of an electronic titling system for our State.

An electronic titling system has numerous benefits for Maine consumers, the financial sector and licensed dealers. The bureau believes that electronic titling will:

- Enhance the ability of the Bureau of Motor Vehicles to process requests for new title documents quickly and efficiently. We believe this will result in the timely capture of vehicle ownership in the Bureau of Motor Vehicle's system.
- Streamline the process of applying and releasing liens without the need for excessive paperwork.
- Ease the pressure for consumers to locate and produce a physical title document when transferring ownership of a vehicle within the state.
- Allow dealers to quickly verify the current ownership information on vehicles which they are taking in trade.
- Reduce the transaction delays resulting from lost title documents.
- Diminish the cost associated with filing duplicate title requests.
- Alleviate the burden of storing and managing paper motor vehicle titles for financial institutions who can secure their interest using an electronic lien.
- Decrease the time it takes for a lien to be released. This will allow dealers to quickly resell their incoming inventory.
- Prevent fraud related to altered title documents, making it more difficult for illegitimate or stolen vehicles to obtain authentic title documents.
- Facilitate the documentation of the destruction of motor vehicles by licensed recyclers without the burden of excess paperwork

We respectfully request that under Section 1, (line 14) "H" be removed from this bill.
The language in "H" states:

A representative of a national organization that develops standards and guidance for electronic titling systems. Now that Cathie Curtis has returned to the BMV as my Deputy Secretary of State, she would bring national titling expertise to the group. She recently led a working group with representatives of ten state motor vehicle agencies that drafted a framework for a national e-titling solution.

This Resolve is one example of how we can leverage technology to move our state forward to better serve the public and our business community. We are committed to technology modernization and appreciate Representative White's recognition of how important this is for the future of our State and its citizens."

On behalf of the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, I thank you and would be happy to answer any questions that the committee may have.