

March 18, 2021

Senator G. William Diamond, Chair
Representative Roland D. Martin, Chair
Transportation Committee
State House, Room 126
Augusta, ME 04333

- RE: LD 284 – An Act to Provide that Inspections of New Motor Vehicles Are Valid for 2 Years**
- LD 354 – An Act to Require Motor Vehicle Inspections Every 2 Years**
- LD 388 – An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Transportation**
- LD 431 – An Act to Repeal the Requirement that Certain Motor Vehicles Be Inspected**
- LD 490 – An Act to Eliminate Certain Motor Vehicle Inspections in the State**
- LD 565 – An Act to Study the Fee Structure for Motor Vehicle Inspections As It Relates to the Viability of Inspection Station**
- LD 712 – An Act to Eliminate the Requirement for an Inspection for a Noncommercial Vehicle Less than 20 Years Old**

Dear Senator Diamond and Representative Martin:

The American Property and Casualty Insurance Association submits this testimony in opposition to LDs 284, 354, 388, 431, 490, 565, and 712 all of which in one fashion or another would weaken Maine's current inspection laws. Maine's inspection program results in safer cars and saves lives. This issue has been raised a number of times before this Committee. In the 129th legislature the bills were LDs 110, 117, 270 and 389. Similar bills have been proposed in numerous prior legislatures. The benefits of Maine's inspection laws include, among other things, lower insurance costs and safer motor vehicles. The value of inspection laws is confirmed by a study conducted by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation in March of 2009.

The Executive Summary states:

*This report describes the activities and results for the Vehicle Safety Inspection Program (VSIP) Effectiveness Study...performed by Cambridge Systematics, Inc. (CS) on behalf of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT). The research considered the effectiveness of vehicle safety inspections on the number of fatal crashes, and the cost-effectiveness of the program compared to the cost of inspections to the owners of Pennsylvania registered vehicles. **The results of the research clearly demonstrate that the Vehicle Safety Inspection program in Pennsylvania is effective and saves lives.***

(Emphasis in original.)

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The entire report is available at:

http://www.dot7.state.pa.us/BPR_PDF_FILES/Documents/Research/Complete%20Projects/Operations/Vehicle%20Safety%20Inspection%20Program%20Effectiveness.pdf

Currently Maine enjoys what Insurance Superintendent Cioppa calls “the Trifecta”. Maine has one of the lowest uninsured motorist percentages in the nation (+/- 4.5%). It has the second lowest premiums and it has the highest minimum mandated insurance limits. These enviable rankings are in part the product of Maine’s inspection laws. Simply put, cars that are able to pass annual inspections are safer.

The Association respectfully urges the Committee to vote LDs 284, 354, 388, 431, 490, 565, and 712 out Ought Not To Pass. Respectfully submitted.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bruce C. Gerrity".

Bruce C. Gerrity

BCG:apl