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Testimony of Lt. Bruce Scott

NFNA LD 821

An Act To Improve the Investigation and Prosecution of Cases That Involve Vulnerable Road Users

Senator Diamond, Rep. Martin and distinguished Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation. My name is Lt. Bruce Scott, and I am the Commanding Officer of the State Police Traffic Safety Unit. I am here today to testify on behalf of the Department of Public Safety and the Maine State Police NFNA LD821.

This bill requires police officers to report to the DA's Office the details of an investigation of any accident involving a vulnerable user within 60 days. There is no exception to this requirement even in circumstances where the police officer does not believe any crime or violation of law has occurred. This may unnecessarily create a greater burden on already strained resources for police agencies and District Attorney's Offices across the state.

The bill also has some language that appears to be problematic as it also requires a law enforcement officer to inform the DA's Office if there is any allegation of a criminal violation that endangered a vulnerable user or their property. Meaning if anyone alleges that a criminal violation endangered the vulnerable user or their property, even if there isn't any evidence to support that assertion, it must be reported to the DA's Office.

I also wanted to point of that current law under Title 22 section 3027 requires law enforcement officers to notify the DA's Office of any motor vehicle crash in which any physical injury caused by a motor vehicle results in death. This law already ensures the most serious crashes are reported to the DA's Office.

For these reasons, we are NFNA LD821.

On behalf of the Department of Public Safety and the Maine State Police, I thank you for your time and would be happy to try and answer any questions that you might have.