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Testimony of Lt. Bruce Scott

NFNA LD1230

**An Act To Enhance Traffic Safety with Regard to the Operation of Bicycles
on Public Ways**

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 LD1230.

This bill seeks to require a person riding a bicycle to operate in single file with other bicyclists when being overtaken by a motor vehicle. It is our opinion that this bill isn't necessary as statute already requires a bicyclist to ride to the right and only allows for them to ride side by side when certain conditions exist. Under Title 29-A section 2063-2 the bicyclist has the discretion to determine when it is unsafe to ride to the right and allows them to use what portion of the way that is necessary to mitigate the danger created by riding to the right. This same statute allows a bicyclist to occupy the entire lane when they can maintain the normal speed of traffic moving in the same direction. A bicyclist is authorized to occupy the entire lane when overtaking another bicyclist, when preparing to make a left hand turn, when proceeding straight in a place where right turns are permitted and when the lane is of substandard width which makes it unsafe to continue riding to the right.

This bill may create some confusion and contradict itself under those circumstances already discussed. Also, a bicyclist may have a hard time determining at what point they are being overtaken and it may not be safe for them to dart into a single file line once they become aware they are being passed.

For these reasons, we are NFNA LD1230.

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.