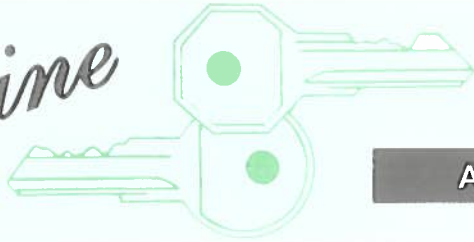


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Testimony in Support of LD 1433

Good afternoon. Senator Diamond, Representative Martin, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Transportation Committee. My name is Tom Brown and I am President of the Maine Automobile Dealers Association, the statewide organization of 116 franchised new car and truck dealerships with nearly 6000 employees in all parts of Maine. Our dealerships sell and service new as well as used vehicles, with sales volume of nearly 125,000 units annually.

MADA writes to support most of the sections of LD 1433 which pertain to dealerships, but with reservations about Section 12 on Page 2-line 18 and Section 32 on Page 5-lines 3 through 12. MADA also would offer a new amendment to LD 1433 with a revision to Title 29-A, Section 956, Subsection 2 which refers to inspection of dealership sales records.

MADA's concern with Sections 12 and 32 of LD 1433 is that it potentially reverses the Transportation Committee's action on LD 1104 – Senator Farrin's proposal, co-sponsored by Rep. Parry, Sen. Diamond, Sen Chipman, and Rep. Martin, which extends the temporary plate period from 14 to 30 days. LD 1104 amended Title 29-A, Section 462 by changing the temporary plate period from 14 to 30 days and was voted 11-0-2 OTP-AM on April 20. The LD before you today, LD 1433, repeals Section 462 in its entirety (section 12 of LD 1433), and replaces it with language in 29-A – 954 which continues the 14 day temporary plate period (Section 32 of LD 1433). MADA respectfully suggests that the extension to 30 days be incorporated into LD 1433.

Dealerships today are moving to electronic storage of information pertaining to sales, service and all aspects of the business. For those dealership groups with multiple separately-licensed facilities owned by the same individuals, there is also the effort to centralize record-keeping. Currently, each separately licensed dealership facility must retain its records at that facility even if that facility is part of a dealership group. Dealers would request the ability to store their records in a central office location, and be able to electronically provide documents back to one of its facilities when necessary. This arrangement is currently allowed for dealerships which have an annex (Title 29-A Section 957-1), but not for dealerships which separately license multiple facilities. One suggestion would be for the following sentence to be added to 29-A, Section 956, Subsection 2 which could read: "A dealership group may retain books and records at a central office facility as long as records could be sent electronically to each of its facilities should the above-referenced agencies request such records".

Thank you for the opportunity to present our perspective.

Tom Brown