

*Senate of  
Maine  
Senate District 15*

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**TESTIMONY OF SENATOR MATTHEW POULIOT**

**Sponsor of LD 1124**

**Public Hearing: May 4, 2021**

*An Act To Change the Threshold for Creating a Specialty License Plate from 2000 Prepaid Orders and To Extend by One Year the Time Allowed for Gathering Signatures*

Senator Diamond, Representative Martin and esteemed members of the Transportation Committee. I am Senator Matt Pouliot and I represent Senate District 15, which consist of the towns of Augusta, China, Oakland, Sidney and Vassalboro. I am here today to present LD 1124 *An Act To Change the Threshold for Creating a Specialty License Plate from 2000 Prepaid Orders and To Extend by One Year the Time Allowed for Gathering Signatures*.

This bill makes changes to the law relating to specialty license plates. The bill lowers the number of signatures a sponsor of a proposed specialty license plate is required to submit to the Secretary of State from 2,000 to 1,000. As currently drafted, the legislation provides that, if the sum of contributions from supporters of a proposed specialty license plate is less than \$50,000, the sponsor is required to provide the difference between the amount collected and \$50,000 to the Secretary of State. The bill also increases from 2 years to 3 years the amount of time allowed for a sponsor to collect signatures of supporters of a proposed specialty license plate before submission to the Secretary of State. Lastly, the bill also provides that these changes apply retroactively to September 1, 2019 so that the changes apply to sponsors currently in the 2-year window of meeting the specialty license plate requirements.

In speaking with Mr. Alexander, my constituent who asked me to put this legislation in, the part in regards to the \$50,000 in this legislation was put in the bill in error and I would ask the committee to amend the legislation to lower that amount to \$25,000 so it lines up with 1000 individuals giving \$25. It was not my intention to make it so a small nonprofit like the one Mr. Alexander is a part of would have to come up with an additional \$25,000 to get a specialty plate.

I learned from Mr. Alexander that states much larger than Maine, such as a Florida with a population of over 20 million has a prepaid requirement of 1000 orders, Virginia with a population of 8.6 million has a prepaid requirement of 450 orders. Nebraska a state with a closer population size to Maine has a prepaid requirement of 250 orders. I think it is reasonable seeing the requirements of some of these other states that Maine lowers its requirement to 1000 prepaid orders.

In closing I ask that the committee consider this legislation and the proposed amended language so that smaller nonprofits such as the one that Mr. Alexander is a part of have a chance at having a specialty plate that can be made available to Mainers. Thank you.