

Hello to all the members of the Transportation Committee,

I am Don McCann and I reside in Bangor Maine. I am the original author of LD 661 which was introduced and sponsored by Rep. Roeder and I would like to tell you why LD 661 is not only an important step for Maine but why I feel it is the ultimate compromise between the total abandoning of the Maine inspection laws and keeping all laws with no change.

Every session I would watch as every bill to eliminate State Vehicle Inspections would fail and I began to try to craft this bill. After asking many of my friends and family and colleagues if there is a way the state could eliminate some inspection requirements, what would it be? This bill is the result of those conversations.

It does make sense that new vehicles, fresh off the lot, should not require a very regimented safety inspection due to just the factor of age and usage.

Most new vehicles come with drivetrain warranties and service contracts at the minimum with vehicles being leased automatically get warranties from the dealer for most, if not all, of the duration of the lease.

Most of these warranties are 3 years/36,000 miles. Some car manufacturers are even longer. Now in Maine we have our lovely winter months full of snow and sleet and with that comes the salt and the sprays that are used to treat our roads.

Many people will tell you about some horrible damage being done to vehicles due to these road treatments and maybe some cars do get an excessive amount of damage done to them. But I am reasonably sure that 98% of the accidents in this state are not due to vehicle damage or failure of parts due to road salt use.

This bill is only for class c motor vehicles as well, which should alleviate some concern over tractor trailers not having a safety inspection.

According to the most recent Maine crash statistics, vehicle mechanical failure only accounts for 2% of all crashes. A very small amount. And I am willing to bet that most of that 2% is from vehicles around 10 years old that have driven on that salt for many years.

This bill would take the need for these inspections away from the cars who are less likely to need one given their age and service being done as routine.

I tried to think of all the scenarios of where a vehicle may need to be inspected due to accident or damage and added the first owner clause due to usually at that point of second sale, any warranties can be null and void.

In truth, I tried to think of the best compromise bill based on evidence and facts and what a majority of the general public would generally agree to, if not an outright nullification of the state inspections.

I do understand the need for safety but I also understand that by using the state of Maine's own metric for crashes that Maine's inspection laws are not all that effective. So with this bill you can alleviate some of the restrictions on vehicles that are newer and less likely to need a safety inspection for a time frame that seems fair for most people in the state. Please pass L.D. 661 as a common sense reform of our Maine vehicle inspection laws, as I feel it is the best compromise for Maine.

I thank you so much for your time and attention to this matter,

Don McCann