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Testimony of Rep. Bruce White introducing
LD 900, An Act to Modernize the State Motor Vehicle Inspection Program
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

Senator Chipman, Representative Williams and distinguished members of the Transportation Committee, my name is Bruce White and I proudly represent House District 65, which consists of half of the City of Waterville. I come before you to present **LD 900, An Act to Modernize the State Motor Vehicle Inspection Program**.

This bill proposes to authorize the Chief of the Maine State Police to adopt an electronic inspection program for the purpose of performing motor vehicle inspections in Maine.

Last year in the 130th Legislature, a similar bill, LD 2032, was considered before this committee. The Transportation Committee at that time voted with unanimous support of those present to move the bill forward to the House and Senate.¹ Despite the bill receiving overwhelming support in the House, the bill was tabled in the Senate² and unfortunately did not come back up for a vote. I am submitting this legislation again this year as I believe it alleviates the concerns that were raised in that bill by my colleagues.

If the State of Maine chooses to pursue an electronic inspection program in the future, it would bring a number of benefits by modernizing how we register vehicles in Maine. In Maine, there are 1.3 million vehicle inspection stickers sold each year.³ Processing this many stickers each year can be a time-consuming endeavor and places a significant amount of stress on our Motor Vehicle Inspection Unit that is housed in the Maine Department of Public Safety (DPS). If the state were to move to an electronic inspection process in the future, it would ease this burden on the staff that are responsible for processing these orders. Furthermore, it would reduce the amount of paperwork that is used to process these requests. I believe Lt. Scott from DPS is here, and he will be able to help explain that process in greater detail. This legislation will also help reduce the opportunity for illegal inspection stickers being created by those acting in bad faith which is a significant public safety risk for millions of motorists who travel on Maine roads.

¹ Legis. Rec. S-1809 (2d Reg. Sess. 2022).

² Legis. Rec. H-1252 (2d Reg. Sess. 2022).

³ Maine Department of Public Safety, (n.d). Motor Vehicle Inspections. Retrieved from <https://www.maine.gov/dps/msp/investigation-traffic/crash-investigations/mv-inspections>

In the interest of public safety and consumer protection, I urge the committee to recommend an "Ought to Pass" report on LD 900, and I thank the members of this committee who signed on as co-sponsors to this legislation. Thank you for your time, and I would be happy to answer any questions at this time or at the work session.