

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 1209

S.P. 498

In Senate, March 20, 2025

**Resolve, to Create a Working Group to Study the Safety and Use of
Small Lightweight Vehicles on Maine's Roads and Highways, the
Systems and Laws Governing Antique Vehicles and the General
Improvement of Road Safety**

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representative HEPLER of Woolwich and
Senators: FARRIN of Somerset, NANGLE of Cumberland, Representative: PLUECKER of
Warren.

1 **Sec. 1. Small lightweight vehicle working group. Resolved:** That the
2 Secretary of State shall convene a working group, referred to in this resolve as "the working
3 group," to study the potential to allow registration and use by motorists of small lightweight
4 vehicles, including mini trucks, on the State's roads and highways, to review the systems
5 and laws in place for antique vehicles and to study improving road safety generally. The
6 working group consists of 6 members, as follows:

- 7 1. The Secretary of State or the secretary's designee;
- 8 2. The deputy secretary of state for the Bureau of Motor Vehicles;
- 9 3. One member from the Bureau of Motor Vehicles who is an expert in vehicle safety
10 and emissions standards appointed by the Secretary of State;
- 11 4. One member who is a representative of a motor vehicle insurance company
12 appointed by the Secretary of State;
- 13 5. One member who is a representative of a motor vehicle inspection business
14 appointed by the Secretary of State; and
- 15 6. One member who is a representative of a business that imports foreign cars for sale
16 in the State appointed by the Secretary of State.

17 **Sec. 2. Duties. Resolved:** That the working group shall:

- 18 1. Review and analyze the safety of allowing the use of small lightweight vehicles on
19 the State's roads and highways, including but not limited to crash safety, vehicle emissions
20 and speed capabilities, and a comparison of the safety of small lightweight vehicles to the
21 safety of vehicles already allowed on the State's roads and highways, including antique
22 vehicles and motorcycles;
- 23 2. Review and analyze laws in other states that allow the use of small lightweight
24 vehicles and how the allowance of these vehicles has affected motor vehicle safety in those
25 states;
- 26 3. Review and analyze any reports or studies from other states that have considered
27 the subjects of study described in section 1 and how the results of those reports or studies
28 could relate to the State's roads and highways and motor vehicle systems;
- 29 4. Consider the most effective way to allow for small lightweight vehicles to be used
30 on the State's roads and highways while protecting the safety of those driving them and
31 other drivers and consider any restrictions on location, annual mileage or driving speed and
32 how to most effectively register those vehicles to indicate such restrictions, including
33 through the use of a system similar to those systems used for antique and farm vehicles;
- 34 5. Consider how to implement an inspection system that would ensure that small
35 lightweight vehicles are safe to drive on the State's roads and highways and how such a
36 system might be similar to or different from the State's current inspection systems for motor
37 vehicles and antique vehicles;
- 38 6. Recommend whether to implement the registration, inspection and use of small
39 lightweight vehicles on the State's roads and highways and recommend any related
40 legislation;

