

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 88

H. P. 80

House of Representatives, January 11, 1979

Referred to the Committee on Transportation. Sent up for concurrence.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Gillis of Calais.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-NINE

**AN ACT Relating to Auxiliary Lights on Certain Law Enforcement Vehicles under
the Motor Vehicle Law.**

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

29 MRSA § 1368, sub-§ 2, as amended by PL 1973, c. 31, is further amended to read:

2. Police department vehicles. Lights used on police department vehicles and on motor vehicles operated by chiefs of police, state fire inspectors, inland fisheries and game wardens, sea and shore fisheries wardens, Baxter State Park rangers, sheriffs and deputy sheriffs and town constables, when approved at annual town meeting, shall emit a blue beam of light.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This change will assist the towns to gain greater control over speed violators within their town boundaries. The present system of flashing regular car lights has no effect whatsoever in apprehending the violators. With the flashing light mounted on the constable's vehicle, it is believed that more local control on speed violations will be realized. Further, the lights will also be a safety factor at scenes of accidents in that a warning is visible to motorists that an unknown condition exists on the road ahead and presents a safety factor for those required to be at the scene of an accident. This legislation further provides that utilization and procurement of blue lights is contingent upon approval at the annual town meeting which further exercises local controls.