

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 2053

Date: 2/5/26

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TRANSPORTATION

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
132ND LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1377, L.D. 2053, "An Act to Improve Safety by Allowing the Use of Variable-message Signs on Public Service Vehicles"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'An Act to Improve Safety by Allowing the Use of Variable-message Signs on Certain Vehicles'

Amend the bill by inserting after the title and before the enacting clause the following:

'Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, vehicles that assist with traffic incidents and improve roadway safety that are equipped with variable-message signs mounted on the vehicle are prepared to begin using variable-message signs immediately; and

Whereas, a delay in allowing vehicles that assist with traffic incidents and improve roadway safety to use variable-message signs could allow for a greater number of traffic-related injuries to occur; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,'

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §2054, sub-§1, ¶K is enacted to read:

K. "Safety service patrol vehicle" means a vehicle, equipped with a variable-message sign, used or contracted by the department or the Maine Turnpike Authority to assist with traffic incidents and improve roadway safety.

Sec. 2. 29-A MRSA §2054, sub-§1, ¶L is enacted to read:

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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- 1 3. It requires a variable-message sign on a wrecker, police vehicle, fire department
2 vehicle, safety service patrol vehicle or highway maintenance vehicle to be displayed
3 facing traffic behind the vehicle and prohibits the variable-message sign from exceeding
4 the width of the vehicle on which it is mounted.

- 5 4. It allows the operator of a wrecker to use a variable-message sign on that vehicle
6 while the vehicle is stationary and engaged in roadside repair, loading or unloading a
7 vehicle or performing vehicle recovery.

- 8 5. It limits the messages on a variable-message sign on a wrecker to amber lights that
9 create a right or left arrow or the words "slow down" or "move over."

- 10 6. It allows the operator of a police vehicle, fire department vehicle, safety service
11 patrol vehicle or highway maintenance vehicle to use a variable-message sign on that
12 vehicle to provide information about traffic congestion, traffic accidents, maintenance
13 operations, adverse weather conditions, roadway conditions or organized events or other
14 necessary roadway safety information.

- 15 7. It limits the messages that may be displayed on a variable-message sign mounted to
16 a police vehicle, fire department vehicle, safety service patrol vehicle or highway
17 maintenance vehicle to right or left arrows or the words "slow down," "move over,"
18 "accident ahead," "crash ahead" or other similar language approved by rule.

- 19 8. It allows the Commissioner of Public Safety or the commissioner's designee to
20 adopt routine technical rules as necessary for the purpose of implementing these provisions.

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