

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*See also opinion to Justin Wilkins  
dated April 1, 1964.*

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no

October 8, 1963

Lieut. Kenneth Wood, Supervisor  
George C. West, Deputy

BMVI - Maine State Police  
Attorney General

**Flashing Lights on Privately Owned Vehicles Used for Plowing  
Snow from Driveways and Parking Lots.**

**FACTS:**

Some individuals own trucks or other vehicles to which is attached a blade or plow. These vehicles, so equipped, are used for clearing snow from driveways, parking lots, and other privately owned areas. Many of these vehicles have flashing red or amber auxiliary lights.

**QUESTION:**

May a privately owned vehicle with plow attached, and used for clearing driveways, parking lots, etc., be equipped with flashing red or amber auxiliary lights?

**ANSWER:** Qualified No.

**REASON:**

Revised Statutes 1954, chapter 22, section 144, in part provides:

"There shall not be used on or in connection with any motor vehicle a red or blue light, the beam from which is visible to the front of said vehicle, except that emergency vehicles, so called, may display lights which emit a red or blue beam to the front thereof only under the following classifications;" (Underlining supplied.)

The section then permits (1) a red beam of light on ambulances, and fire department vehicles; (2) a blue beam of light on police vehicles and motor vehicles operated by variously named law enforcement officers, and (3) an amber beam of light on vehicles engaged in highway maintenance, wreckers, and public utility emergency service vehicles. Section 144 also permits not more than 2 fog lights which emit an amber or white beam of light.

Section 44 requires trucks, graders and other vehicles plowing or sanding on public ways to have 2 amber lights showing front and rear; both shall have blinker attachments. It may have a rotary flashing amber light in lieu of the above lights.

Lieut. Kenneth Wood

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Hence, the only prohibition is that contained in the second paragraph of section 144 quoted above. This prohibition applies only to lights emitting a red or blue beam to the front.

Therefore, a privately owned vehicle used for plowing snow from private property may not be equipped with a red or blue light which is visible from the front.

Conversely, there is nothing in the law to prevent such vehicles from displaying amber lights to the front or red lights to the rear.

George C. West  
Deputy Attorney General

GCW:H