

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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JAMES E. TIERNEY
ATTORNEY GENERAL



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

July 29, 1981

Honorable Vinton T. Ridley
RFD, Box 267
Springvale, Maine 04083

Dear Representative Ridley:

This will respond to your inquiry as to whether a town constable may utilize a blue light on his vehicle. For purposes of my response, I am assuming that the vehicle is owned by the constable.

Title 29 M.R.S.A. § 1368 prohibits the use of a blue light on any vehicle except those listed in subsection 2. That subsection reads as follows:

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 shall emit a blue beam of light.

As you can see, a blue light may be used only on a police department vehicle or on a vehicle operated by one of the officials listed in the statute. Applying this provision to your question, it is clear that the vehicle in question is not a police department vehicle and that a constable is not included in the list of authorized officials. Thus, it is my view that the constable may not use a blue light on his vehicle.

I hope this information is helpful. Please feel free to contact this office if we can be of any further service.

Sincerely,

Stephen L. Diamond
STEPHEN L. DIAMOND
Deputy Attorney General

SLD:jwp