

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(EMERGENCY)

ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 783

H. P. 592

House of Representatives, February 12, 1973

Referred to Committee on Transportation. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

E. LOUISE LINCOLN, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Cote of Lewiston.

STATE OF MAINE

**IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-THREE**

**AN ACT Providing for Use of Emergency Green and White Lights on
Civil Defense and Right of Way for Such Vehicles.**

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

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

Whereas, the present law permits civil defense agencies to display an amber beam of light on vehicles used for emergency purposes; and

Whereas, such amber lights are emitted on vehicles engaged in highway maintenance, wreckers and public utility emergency service vehicles; and

Whereas, it is essential that civil defense agency vehicles be particularly distinguished from other vehicles engaged in less emergency matters; and

Whereas, the following legislation is vitally necessary to resolve any confusions that may exist between civil defense and public safety vehicles and other vehicles; 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,

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

Title 29 of the Revised Statutes is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 1. R. S., T. 29, § 946, amended. The first sentence of section 946 of

Police, fire department, **civil defense**, traffic emergency repair vehicles, **rescue units** and ambulances, when operated in response to calls, shall have the right of way.

Sec. 2. R. S., T. 29, § 1368, amended. The 2nd paragraph of section 1368 of Title 29 of the Revised Statutes is amended to read as follows:

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 a red or blue or **green and white** beam to the front thereof only under the following classifications:

Sec. 3. R. S., T. 29, § 1368, sub-§ 3, repealed and replaced. Subsection 3 of section 1368 of Title 29 of the Revised Statutes, as amended by chapter 155 of the public laws of 1965, is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

3. Emergency service vehicles. Lights used on vehicles engaged in highway maintenance, wreckers and public utility emergency service vehicles shall emit an amber beam of light.

Sec. 4. R. S., T. 29, § 1368, sub-§ 4, additional. Section 1368 of Title 29 of the Revised Statutes, as amended by chapter 155 and section 6 of chapter 365, both of the public laws of 1965, is further amended by adding a new subsection 4 to read as follows:

4. Civil defense vehicles. Lights used on civil defense vehicles, rescue and feeding vans and emergency snowmobile transportation units, duly authorized and designated by each county director for the county and municipal departments of civil defense in the geographical boundaries of each county, shall emit a green or green and white beam of light. Such light may be displayed but shall not be in operation except while such vehicle is in use for civil defense emergency service.

Sec. 5. R. S., T. 37-A, § 54, amended. Section 54 of Title 37-A of the Revised Statutes, as enacted by section 1 of chapter 580 of the public laws of 1971, is amended by adding at the end a new paragraph to read as follows:

The director shall, by rule and regulation, establish requirements for the training, experience and qualifications of those persons manning emergency rescue, feeding or transportation units, whether volunteer or employed, so that such persons may have sufficient emergency care training to adequately respond to civil defense and public safety emergency service.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act shall take effect when approved.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to provide:

1. Green or green and white emergency lights on civil defense vehicles.
2. That such vehicles shall have the right of way on the highways.
3. That personnel responding to emergency service shall be qualified.