MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document   No. 757

H. P. 616   House of Representatives, February 23, 1979
  On Motion of Mr. Carroll of Limerick, referred to the Committee on
Transportation. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.
                                                      EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk
  Presented by Mr. Tarbell of Bangor.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED SEVENTY-NINE

AN ACT to Allow Municipal Law Enforcement Officers to Use Blue Flashing Lights on Personal Vehicles During an Emergency.

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 municipal police officers** shall emit a blue beam of light. **A motor vehicle operated by a municipal police officer and subject to the provisions of this subsection, except official police department vehicles, shall not be used to pursue other vehicles.**

STATEMENT OF FACT

  The purpose of this bill is to allow municipal police officers, while off duty, to use a blue flashing light on their private vehicle during an emergency situation. In many cases, off-duty police officers encounter motor vehicle accidents and other emergency situations. The use of a blue light could significantly help these officers until an on-duty officer replaces the off-duty officer. The public would be aware that an official law enforcement officer is involved in any emergency situation.