

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 531

H. P. 484

House of Representatives, January 29, 1981

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Moholland of Princeton.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-ONE

AN ACT to Require Motorists Traveling on Maine Highways to Turn on Their Headlights When Conditions Require Continuous Operation of Wiper Blades and to Require Certain Vehicles to Activate Rear Blinkers at Slow Speeds.

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

Sec. 1. 29 MRSA § 1071, first ¶, first sentence, as amended by PL 1965, c. 46, § 1, is further amended to read:

Every vehicle, whether stationary or in motion, on any way or bridge shall have attached to it a light or lights so displayed as to be visible from the front and rear thereof during the period from ½ hour after sunset to ½ hour before sunrise, **at any time when atmospheric conditions require continuous operation of the mechanical windshield wipers on the vehicle** and at any other time when, due to insufficient light or unfavorable atmospheric conditions, caused by fog or otherwise, persons and vehicles on the highways are not clearly discernible at a distance of 500 feet ahead.

Sec. 2. 29 MRSA § 1366, as last amended by PL 1973, c. 222, § 4, is further amended by adding after the 5th paragraph a new paragraph to read:

The driver of any vehicle 7 feet or over in width shall activate the rear blinker lights on the vehicle whenever speed is reduced to 45 miles per hour or less.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to require motorists traveling on Maine roads to turn on their headlights when conditions require continuous operation of windshield wiper blades. The bill also requires vehicles of 7 feet or more in width to activate rear blinkers whenever speed is reduced to 45 miles per hour or less.