

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 691

H. P. 614

House of Representatives, February 5, 1981

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Tuttle of Sanford.

STATE OF MAINE

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

**AN ACT to Extend Emergency Equipment to Ambulance Service Chiefs.**

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

**Sec. 1. 29 MRSA § 946, first sentence** is amended to read:

Police, fire department, traffic emergency repair vehicles and ~~ambulances~~ **ambulance service vehicles**, when operated in response to calls, shall have the right-of-way.

**Sec. 2. 29 MRSA § 1362, 9th sentence**, as last amended by PL 1975, c. 497, § 3, is further amended to read:

No signalling device ~~shall~~ **may** be unnecessarily sounded nor any braking or acceleration unnecessarily made so as to cause a harsh, objectionable or unreasonable noise, and no bell or siren ~~shall~~ **may** be installed or used on any motor vehicle except that fire and police department vehicles and ambulances, and vehicles operated by state, city and town fire inspectors, city and town fire chiefs, assistant fire chiefs, **ambulance service chiefs**, police chiefs and assistant police chiefs may be so equipped for use only when responding to emergency calls, and such motor vehicles used by sheriffs and deputy sheriffs, and such motor vehicles used by inland fisheries and game wardens as may be designated by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and such motor vehicles used by coastal wardens as may be designated by the Department of Marine Resources, and such motor vehicles used by United States Government law enforcement

officials, and such motor vehicles used by a state or municipal department which controls or supervises electrical alarm and communication systems.

**Sec. 3. 29 MRSA § 1368, sub-§ 1, first sentence**, as repealed and replaced by PL 1975, c. 653, is amended to read:

Lights used on ambulances, fire department vehicles, vehicles operated by city and town fire inspectors, forestry department vehicles used for forest fire control purposes and by vehicles operated by chiefs and chief officers, such as assistant chiefs, deputy chiefs and district chiefs of fire departments, **and vehicles operated by chiefs of state-licensed ambulance services**, shall emit a red beam of light.

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

Ambulance services statewide generally respond to more calls than there are fires, and always involve human suffering or life-threatening emergencies. The ambulance chief exposes his vehicle to traffic problems both enroute, and while at the scene of these emergencies and needs the protection afforded by such equipment granted to fire and police chiefs.