

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

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ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 1133**

H. P. 957

House of Representatives, March 5, 1981

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Conary of Oakland.

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STATE OF MAINE

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

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**AN ACT Concerning the Use of Blue Lights by Police Officers.**

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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 by adding at the end a new paragraph to read:

**When authorized by municipal officers of a municipality and also by the police chief, a blue blinker or flashing blue signal light, not more than 5 inches in diameter, may be mounted as near as possible above the registration plate on the front of the motor vehicle, or mounted on the dash board so the light will be shielded from the driver, so as not to interfere with his vision. While operated by a member of a municipal or reserve police department, this light may be displayed, but shall not be in operation except while the vehicle is in use for police or other emergency service. No reserve or municipal police officer may operate a blue blinker or flashing blue light upon the motor vehicle, except while actually en route to the scene of a call for assistance, or for other emergencies requiring his services, and unless he is an active member of such department.**

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to permit municipal officers and police chiefs to authorize the use of blue lights by full-time or part-time police officers. Neither full-time or part-time police officers are allowed to display a blue light at present,

unless they are also sworn in as deputy sheriffs. It is very difficult to have all these officers sworn in as deputy sheriffs, since the sheriff's departments can only have a certain number of deputies.