

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION  
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE  
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 1072

6  
7 H.P. 749

House of Representatives, March 19, 1985

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

10 EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Webster of Cape Elizabeth.

11  
12 STATE OF MAINE  
13

14 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
15 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FIVE  
16

17 AN ACT to Increase Public Safety on Roads.  
18

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

21 Sec. 1. 29 MRSA §1071, first ¶, as amended by PL  
22 1969, c. 138, §4, is further amended to read:

23 Every vehicle, whether stationary or in motion,  
24 on any way or bridge shall have attached to it a  
25 light or lights so displayed as to be visible from  
26 the front and rear thereof during the period from 1/2  
27 hour after sunset to 1/2 hour before sunrise, at any  
28 time when atmospheric conditions require continuous  
29 operation of the mechanical windshield wipers on the  
30 vehicle and at any other time when, due to insuffi-  
31 cient light or unfavorable atmospheric conditions,  
32 caused by fog or otherwise, persons and vehicles on  
33 the highways are not clearly discernible at a dis-  
34 tance of 500 feet ahead. This section shall not ap-  
35 ply to any vehicle which is designed to be propelled  
36 by hand, nor to any vehicle not in motion and parked

1 or beside a curb in a place and under conditions  
2 where there is sufficient artificial light to make  
3 such vehicle clearly visible from a distance not less  
4 than 100 feet in each direction. "Sunrise" and "sun-  
5 set" shall be the time given in the Maine Farmers'  
6 Almanac.

7 Sec. 2. 29 MRSA 1366, 2nd ¶, as amended by PL  
8 1981, c. 98, §9, is further amended to read:

9 Every headlamp, upon every motor vehicle, includ-  
10 ing every motorcycle and motor driven cycle, shall be  
11 located at a height measured from the center of the  
12 headlamp of not more than 54 inches nor less than 22  
13 inches above the level surface upon which said vehi-  
14 cle stands. Headlamps on snow plows may be located at  
15 a height greater than 54 inches above said level sur-  
16 face. All such headlamps shall be equipped with  
17 lenses or reflectors that emit only a white beam of  
18 light. The lamps and lights shall conform to and op-  
19 erate in accordance with the rules and regulations  
20 promulgated from time to time by the Commissioner of  
21 Public Safety and shall be lighted during the period  
22 from 1/2 hour after sunset to 1/2 hour before sun-  
23 rise, at any time when atmospheric conditions require  
24 continuous operation of the mechanical windshield  
25 wipers on the vehicle and at any time when, due to  
26 insufficient light or unfavorable atmospheric condi-  
27 tion, caused by fog or otherwise, persons in vehicles  
28 on the highway are not clearly discernible for a dis-  
29 tance of 500 feet ahead, except as provided in sec-  
30 tion 1755.

31 STATEMENT OF FACT

32 The purpose of this bill is to require the use of  
33 headlights on motor vehicles when it is raining.

34 1301012685