

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SECOND REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 2092

S.P. 795 In Senate, January 19, 1988  
Submitted by the Department of Public Safety pursuant to  
Joint Rule 24.

Reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs suggested and  
ordered printed.

JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator CAHILL of Sagadahoc.

Cosponsored by Representative MCPHERSON of Eliot,  
Representative MACOMBER of South Portland, Representative  
STROUT of Corinth.

STATE OF MAINE

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

1 AN ACT to Prohibit the Display of Blue Lights on  
2 Vehicles Other than those Used by  
3 Authorized Law Enforcement Officers and  
4 Agencies.  
5

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

8 Sec. 1. 29 MRSA §1367-B is enacted to read:  
9 §1367-B. Spot, fog or auxiliary lights; fire and  
10 emergency vehicles

1        1. Spot and fog lights. There shall not be used  
2 on or in connection with any motor vehicle a spotlight  
3 or more than 2 fog or auxiliary lights, the rays from  
4 which shine more than 2 feet above the road at a  
5 distance of 30 feet from the vehicle, except that such  
6 a spotlight may be used for the purpose of reading  
7 signs and as an auxiliary light in cases of necessity  
8 when the other lights required by law fail to  
9 operate. No fog or auxiliary light mounted on any  
10 vehicle at a height greater than the center of the  
11 main headlamps may be illuminated while that vehicle  
12 is being operated on any public way, except as  
13 provided by section 1462, and the beam emitted shall  
14 be white or amber.

15        2. Alternate flashing headlamps. No vehicles,  
16 other than ambulances, fire department, police  
17 department and highway maintenance vehicles, may be  
18 equipped with a device which provides for the  
19 alternate flashing of the vehicle's headlamps.

20        3. Blue lights. No vehicle may be equipped with  
21 or display a blue light, except that emergency lights  
22 used on police department vehicles and on motor  
23 vehicles operated by chiefs of police, state fire  
24 inspectors, inland fisheries and wildlife wardens, sea  
25 and shore fisheries wardens, Baxter State Park  
26 rangers, sheriffs and deputy sheriffs shall emit a  
27 blue beam of light.

28        4. Red lights. A red light shall not be used on  
29 or in connection with any motor vehicle, the beam from  
30 which is visible to the front of the vehicle, except  
31 that emergency vehicles may display lights which emit  
32 a red beam to the front of the vehicle only under the  
33 following classifications.

34        A. Lights used on ambulances; fire department  
35 vehicles; vehicles operated by city and town fire  
36 inspectors; forestry department vehicles used for  
37 forest fire control purposes; and by vehicles  
38 operated by chiefs and chief officers, such as  
39 assistant chiefs, deputy chiefs and district

1 chiefs of fire departments, shall emit a red beam  
2 of light or a combination of red and white  
3 lights. When authorized by the municipal officers  
4 of a municipality and countersigned by the fire  
5 chief, a red blinker or flashing red signal light  
6 not more than 5 inches in diameter may be mounted  
7 as near as practicable above the registration  
8 plate on the front of a motor vehicle, or mounted  
9 on the dashboard so that the light will be  
10 shielded from the driver so as not to interfere  
11 with his vision, while operated by a member of a  
12 municipal or volunteer fire department. The light  
13 may be displayed, but shall not be in operation,  
14 except while the vehicle is in use for fire or  
15 other emergency service. No volunteer or  
16 municipal firefighter may operate a red blinker or  
17 flashing red signal light upon a motor vehicle,  
18 except while actually enroute to the scene of a  
19 fire or other emergency requiring services and  
20 unless the operator is an active member of the  
21 department. Nothing in this subsection may limit  
22 the use of lights showing a red beam of light to  
23 the front or rear of school buses, provided those  
24 lights are of a type approved by the Commissioner  
25 of Educational and Cultural Services under section  
26 2012; nor may any designation or authorization by  
27 the Commissioner of Public Safety be required for  
28 the use of emergency lights authorized under this  
29 section.

30 B. Members of a volunteer emergency rescue squad  
31 or volunteer emergency ambulance service may  
32 display a red blinker or flashing red signal light  
33 of the same proportion, in the same location and  
34 under the same conditions as those permitted  
35 volunteer firefighters, when authorized by the  
36 municipal officers and countersigned by the chief  
37 official of the rescue squad or ambulance service.

38 5. Amber lights. Lights used on vehicles engaged  
39 in highway maintenance, in emergency rescue operations  
40 by civil defense and public safety agencies, wreckers  
41 and public utility emergency service vehicles shall  
42 emit an amber beam of light.

1 A. Vehicles equipped and used for plowing snow on  
2 other than public ways may be equipped with an  
3 auxiliary rotary flashing light, which shall be  
4 mounted on top of the vehicle in such a manner as  
5 to emit an amber beam of light over a 360 degree  
6 angle. The lighting shall be in use only on a  
7 public way when the vehicle is entering the public  
8 way in the course of plowing private driveways and  
9 other off-highway locations.

10 The use of those auxiliary lights does not relieve  
11 the owner or operator of an emergency vehicle from  
12 conforming to section 1366.

13 Sec. 2. 29 MRSA §1368, as amended by PL 1981,  
14 c. 98, §10, is repealed.

15 STATEMENT OF FACT

16 The main purpose of this bill is to make it clear  
17 that blue lights may not be displayed on other than  
18 police vehicles.

19 In order to make the entire text of the Maine  
20 Revised Statutes, Title 29, section 1368, clearer,  
21 more orderly and easier to read, the bill repeals the  
22 present section and creates a new section containing  
23 subsections which refer to spot and fog lights,  
24 alternate flashing headlamps, blue lights, red lights  
25 and amber lights.

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