

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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114th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION - 1990

Legislative Document

No. 2087

H.P. 1507

House of Representatives, January 4, 1990

Submitted by the Department of Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 24.
Reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ed Pert".

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

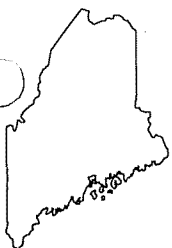
Presented by Representative GREENLAW of Standish.

Cosponsored by Senator COLLINS of Aroostook, Senator THERIAULT of
Aroostook and Representative CARROLL of Gray.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND NINETY

An Act to Enforce Reasonable Use of Sirens on Emergency Vehicles.



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

2
4 Sec. 1. 29 MRSA §946, as amended by PL 1989, c. 32, §1, is further amended to read:

6 **§946. Police and fire vehicles**

8 Police, fire department, forest fire control vehicles and ambulance vehicles, when operated in response to calls, or when a
10 police officer is in pursuit of a motor vehicle operator for which the police officer has probable cause to believe that the
12 operator has committed or is in the process of committing a violation of law, and vehicles of the Department of Corrections
14 making use of a blue light and alone or in conjunction with a siren shall have the right-of-way. These emergency vehicles, when operated in response to calls, must emit a flashing light. When the emergency vehicle operator determines it to be reasonably
16 necessary and effective as an alerting device, the operator must cause the vehicle to sound a siren. On the approach of any such
18 vehicle, from any direction, and when such that vehicle is sounding a siren and or emitting a flashing light, the driver of
20 every other vehicle shall immediately draw that driver's vehicle as near as practicable to the right-hand curb and parallel
22 thereto, clear of any intersection, and bring it to a standstill until such public service vehicles have passed.
24
26

28 Sec. 2. 29 MRSA §946-A, sub-§3, as amended by PL 1987, c. 644, §5, is further amended to read:

30 **3. Audible signals; visual signals.** The exemptions granted in this section to an authorized emergency vehicle apply only
32 when that vehicle is making use of an audible signal as required authorized in sections 946 and 1362 and or visual signals as
34 required in sections 946 and 1367-B, except that an authorized emergency vehicle operated as a police vehicle need not be
36 equipped with or display a special visual signal visible from in front of the vehicle.
38

40
42 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

44 The purpose of this bill is to allow drivers of emergency vehicles to use their discretion in determining when it is
46 necessary to use their vehicles' sirens. The bill grants certain public service vehicles the right-of-way even if the appropriate
48 flashing light is being emitted without a siren.