

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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115th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1990

Legislative Document

No. 17

H.P. 14

House of Representatives, December 10, 1990

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

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

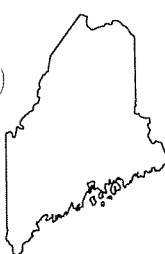
EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative TRACY of Rome.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND NINETY

An Act Concerning the Use of Headlights in Inclement Weather.



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

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

6 Every vehicle, whether stationary or in motion, on any
8 public way or bridge shall must have attached to it a light or
10 lights headlights and taillights so displayed as to be visible
12 from the front and rear thereof during the period from 1/2 hour
14 after sunset to 1/2 hour before sunrise, and at any other time
16 when, due to insufficient light or unfavorable weather,
18 including, but not limited to, rain, freezing rain, fog, snow or
20 other forms of inclement atmospheric conditions, -caused-by-fog-or
22 otherwise, persons and vehicles on the highways public ways or
24 bridges are not clearly discernible at a distance of 500 feet
26 ahead. This section shall does not apply to any vehicle which
28 that is designed to be propelled by hand, nor to any parked
30 vehicle not-in-motion-and-parked or a vehicle beside a curb in a
32 place and under conditions where there is sufficient artificial
34 light to make such that vehicle clearly visible from a distance
36 not-less-than of at least 100 feet in each direction. "Sunrise"
38 and "sunset" shall be are the time times given in the Maine
40 Farmers' Almanac. A person who fails to comply with this
42 paragraph commits a civil violation for which a forfeiture of not
44 less than \$50 may be adjudged.

26 Sec. 2. 29 MRSA §1366, 2nd ¶, as amended by PL 1981, c. 98,
28 §9, is further amended to read:

30 Every headlamp, upon every motor vehicle, including every
32 motorcycle and motor driven cycle, shall must be located at a
34 height measured from the center of the headlamp of not more than
36 54 inches nor less than 22 inches above the level surface upon
38 which said the vehicle stands. Headlamps on snow plows may be
40 located at a height greater than 54 inches above said the level
42 surface. All such headlamps shall must be equipped with lenses or
44 reflectors that emit only a white beam of light. The lamps and
46 lights shall must conform to and operate in accordance with
48 section 1071 and the rules and -regulations -promulgated adopted
 from time to time by the Commissioner of Public Safety and shall
 be-lighted-during-the-period-from-1/2-hour-after-sunset-to-1/2
 hour-before-sunrise,-and-at-any-time-when,-due-to-insufficient
 light-or-unfavorable-atmospheric-condition,-caused-by-fog-or
 otherwise,-persons-in-vehicles-on-the-highway-are-not-clearly
 discernible-for-a-distance-of-500-feet-ahead,-except-as-provided
 in-section-1755.

STATEMENT OF FACT

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The purpose of this bill is to define more clearly inclement weather conditions that require operators to turn on headlights. The bill adds a forfeiture for persons failing to use headlights during inclement weather. The bill also removes redundant language from another section of law.