

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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117th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1995

Legislative Document

No. 221

H.P. 173

House of Representatives, January 24, 1995

**An Act to Allow Municipal Officials to Approve the Use of Flashing
Lights by Fire Department Members.**

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative PENDLETON of Scarborough.
Cosponsored by Representatives: DUNN of Gray, GREENLAW of Standish, LABRECQUE
of Gorham, LOVETT of Scarborough, NASS of Acton, Senators: AMERO of Cumberland,
PENDEXTER of Cumberland.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §2054, sub-§2, ¶F,** as enacted by PL 1993, c.
5 683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

6 F. Only vehicles listed in this paragraph, rural mail
7 vehicles as provided in paragraph C, subparagraph (5) and
8 school buses may be equipped with, display or use a red
9 auxiliary or emergency light.

10 (1) Emergency lights used on an ambulance, an
11 emergency medical service vehicle, a fire department
12 vehicle, a fire vehicle or a hazardous material
13 response vehicle must emit a red light or a combination
14 of red and white light.

15 (2) The municipal officers, ~~when approved by or a~~
16 designated municipal official, with the approval of the
17 fire chief, may authorize an active member of a
18 municipal or volunteer fire department to use a
19 flashing red signal light not more than 5 inches in
20 diameter on a vehicle. The light may be displayed but
21 may be used only while the member is en route to or at
22 the scene of a fire or other emergency. The light must
23 be mounted as near as practicable above the
24 registration plate on the front of the vehicle or on
25 the dashboard. A light mounted on the dashboard must
26 be shielded so that the emitted light does not
27 interfere with the operator's vision.

28 (3) Members of an emergency medical service licensed
29 by Maine Emergency Medical Services may display and use
30 on a vehicle a flashing red signal light of the same
31 proportion, in the same location and under the same
32 conditions as those permitted municipal and volunteer
33 firefighters, when authorized by the chief official of
34 the emergency medical service.
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39 **40 STATEMENT OF FACT**

41 Under current law, in order for a member of a municipal or
42 volunteer fire department to use a flashing red signal light,
43 approval must be obtained from the municipal officers. This bill
44 gives the municipal officers the ability to designate an official
45 who may give permission.
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