

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)



118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

No. 150

H.P. 126

House of Representatives, January 14, 1997

**An Act Regarding the Use of Lights and Sirens on Personal Vehicles
Used by Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Medical Services
Personnel.**

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 MORGAN of South Portland.
Cosponsored by Representatives: MUSE of South Portland, WRIGHT of Berwick.

2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50

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

Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §2054, sub-§1, ¶B, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended by amending subparagraphs (17) and (18) to read:

(17) A vehicle operated by a qualified deputy sheriff or other qualified individual to perform court security-related functions and services as authorized by the State Court Administrator pursuant to Title 4, section 17, subsection 15; ~~or~~

(18) A Federal Government vehicle operated by a federal law enforcement officer; ~~i~~

Sec. 2. 29-A MRSA §2054, sub-§1, ¶B, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended by enacting subparagraphs (19) and (20) to read:

(19) A personal vehicle operated by an active member of a municipal or volunteer fire department, only when the member is en route to or at the scene of a fire or other emergency; or

(20) A personal vehicle operated by an active member of an emergency medical service, only when the member is en route to or at the scene of an emergency.

Sec. 3. 29-A MRSA §2054, sub-§2, ¶A, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

A. Only an ambulance; an emergency medical service vehicle; a fire department vehicle; a police vehicle; a Department of Conservation vehicle used for forest fire control; a Department of Corrections vehicle as described in subsection 1, paragraph B, subparagraph (6); a personal vehicle operated by an active member of a municipal or volunteer fire department or an emergency medical service, only when the member is en route to or at the scene of a fire or other emergency; and a highway maintenance vehicle may be equipped with a device that provides for alternate flashing of the vehicle's headlights.

Sec. 4. 29-A MRSA §2054, sub-§2, ¶F, as amended by PL 1995, c. 22, §1, is further amended to read:

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

2 (1) Emergency lights used on an ambulance, an
4 emergency medical service vehicle, a fire department
6 vehicle, a fire vehicle or a hazardous material
response vehicle must emit a red light or a combination
of red and white light.

8 (2) The municipal officers or a municipal official
10 designated by the municipal officers, with the approval
of the fire chief, may authorize an active member of a
12 municipal or volunteer fire department to use a
~~flashing red signal light not more than 5 inches in~~
14 diameter siren and any combination of flashing red and
amber lights on a vehicle. The ~~light~~ lights and siren
16 may be displayed but may be used only while the member
is en route to or at the scene of a fire or other
18 emergency. ~~The light must be mounted as near as~~
~~practicable above the registration plate on the front~~
~~of the vehicle or on the dashboard. The lights may be~~
20 mounted on the roof, rear deck, front grille or
dashboard of the vehicle. A light mounted on the
22 dashboard must be shielded so that the emitted light
does not interfere with the operator's vision.

24 (3) Members of an emergency medical service licensed
26 by Maine Emergency Medical Services may display and use
on a vehicle a ~~flashing red signal light of the same~~
28 ~~proportion~~ the lights and siren, in the same location
and under the same conditions as those permitted
30 municipal and volunteer firefighters, ~~when authorized~~
~~by the chief official of the emergency medical service.~~

34 **SUMMARY**

36 This bill permits municipal and volunteer firefighters and
emergency medical services personnel to use a siren and flashing
38 red and amber lights on a personal vehicle while en route to or
at the scene of a fire or other emergency. It also provides that
40 such vehicles are covered by the rules of operation applying to
authorized emergency vehicles.