

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

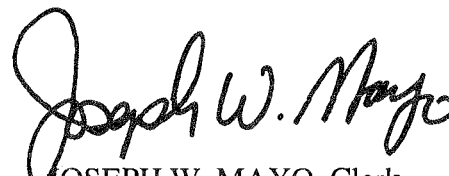
No. 451

H.P. 329

House of Representatives, January 23, 1997

An Act to Expand the Number of Lights Firefighters May Use on Their Cars.

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.


JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative JONES of Pittsfield. (By Request)
Cosponsored by Representatives: BUCK of Yarmouth, CIANCHETTE of South Portland,
TREADWELL of Carmel.

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

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

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

14 (1) Emergency lights used on an ambulance, an
16 emergency medical service vehicle, a fire department
18 vehicle, a fire vehicle or a hazardous material
20 response vehicle must emit a red light or a combination
22 of red and white light.

24 (2) The municipal officers or a municipal official
26 designated by the municipal officers, with the approval
28 of the fire chief, may authorize an active member of a
30 municipal or volunteer fire department to use a
32 flashing red signal light ~~not more than 5 inches in
diameter~~ lights on a vehicle. The ~~light~~ lights may be
displayed but may be used only while the member is en
route to or at the scene of a fire or other emergency.
~~The light must be mounted as near as practicable above
the registration plate on the front of the vehicle or
on the dashboard.~~ A light mounted on the dashboard
must be shielded so that the emitted light does not
interfere with the operator's vision. Lights
authorized under this section may not impair the vision
of an operator of any vehicle.

34 (3) Members of an emergency medical service licensed
36 by Maine Emergency Medical Services may display and use
38 on a vehicle a flashing red signal light of the same
40 proportion, in the same location and under the same
42 conditions as those permitted municipal and volunteer
44 firefighters, when authorized by the chief official of
46 the emergency medical service.

SUMMARY

44 This bill permits an active member of a municipal or
46 volunteer fire department, when authorized, to use any type of
flashing signal light on a vehicle when en route to or at the
scene of a fire or other emergency.