

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-1998

Legislative Document

No. 2255

H.P. 1627

House of Representatives, March 4, 1998

**An Act to Allow a Public Utility Emergency Service Vehicle to Use a
Siren and Red Light When Responding to an Emergency.**

(AFTER DEADLINE)

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

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 USHER of Westbrook.
Cosponsored by Senator O'GARA of Cumberland and
Representatives: BERRY of Livermore, LABRECQUE of Gorham.

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 to read:

B. "Authorized emergency vehicle" means any one of the following vehicles:

(1) An ambulance;

(2) A Baxter State Park Authority vehicle operated by a Baxter State Park ranger;

(3) A Bureau of Marine Patrol vehicle operated by a coastal warden;

(4) A Department of Conservation vehicle operated by a forest ranger;

(5) A Department of Conservation vehicle used for forest fire control;

(6) A Department of Corrections vehicle used for responding to the escape of or performing the high-security transfer of a prisoner, juvenile client or juvenile detainee;

(7) A Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife vehicle operated by a warden;

(8) A Department of Public Safety vehicle operated by a liquor enforcement officer for the purpose of enforcing section 2411 or Title 28-A, a state fire inspector or a Maine Drug Enforcement Agency officer;

(9) An emergency medical service vehicle;

(10) A fire department vehicle;

(11) A hazardous material response vehicle;

(12) A railroad police vehicle;

(13) A sheriff's department vehicle;

(14) A State Police or municipal police department vehicle;

(15) A vehicle operated by a chief of police, a sheriff or a deputy sheriff when authorized by the sheriff;

(16) A vehicle operated by a municipal fire inspector, a municipal fire chief, an assistant or deputy chief or a town forest fire warden;

(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; or

(19) A public utility emergency service vehicle.

Sec. 2. 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.

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

(2) The municipal officers or a municipal official designated by the municipal officers, with the approval of the fire chief, may authorize an active member of a municipal or volunteer fire department to use a flashing red signal light not more than 5 inches in diameter on a vehicle. The light 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.

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

10 SUMMARY

12 This bill allows a public utility emergency service vehicle
to use a siren and red light. It also subjects a public utility
14 emergency service vehicle to the same laws regarding right-of-way
as other authorized emergency vehicles.