



119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

No. 52

H.P. 38

House of Representatives, January 7, 1999

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

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

OSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative JONES of Pittsfield. Cosponsored by Representatives: CARR of Lincoln, RICHARDSON of Greenville, SNOWE-MELLO of Poland, STEDMAN of Hartland, TREADWELL of Carmel.

	Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:
2	Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §2054, sub-§2, ¶F, as amended by PL 1995, c.
4	22, §1, is further amended to read:
б	F. Only vehicles listed in this paragraph, rural mail vehicles as provided in paragraph C, subparagraph (5) and
8	school buses may be equipped with, display or use a red auxiliary or emergency light.
10	
12	(1) Emergency lights used on an ambulance, an emergency medical service vehicle, a fire department vehicle, a fire vehicle or a hazardous material
14	response vehicle must emit a red light or a combination of red and white light.
16	-
18	(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
20	municipal or volunteer fire department to usea- flashing red signal light-notmerethan-5inches-in
22	diameter <u>lights</u> on a vehicle. The light <u>lights</u> may be displayed but may be used only while the member is en
24	route to or at the scene of a fire or other emergency. The-light-must-be-mounted-as-near-as-practicable-above
26	the-registration-plate-on-the-front-of-the-vehicle-or
28	en-the-dashbeard. A light mounted on the dashboard must be shielded so that the emitted light does not interfere with the operator's vision. <u>Lights</u>
30	authorized under this section may not impair the vision of an operator of any vehicle.
32	
34	(3) Members of an emergency medical service licensed by Maine Emergency Medical Services may display and use on a vehicle a flashing red signal light of the same
36	proportion, in the same location and under the same conditions as those permitted municipal and volunteer
38	firefighters, when authorized by the chief official of the emergency medical service.
40	the emergency medical service.
42	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.