

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

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Legislative Document

No. 1394

H.P. 996

House of Representatives, February 18, 1999

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**An Act to Limit the Idling Time for Diesel Motor Vehicles.**

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Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative POWERS of Rockport.  
Cosponsored by Representatives: BULL of Freeport, GAGNE of Buckfield, JABAR of  
Waterville, McKEE of Wayne, SAVAGE of Union.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §2115 is enacted to read:**

6 **§2115. Idling time for certain diesel-powered vehicles**

8 **1. Prohibition.** **An operator of a bus or truck that is**  
10 **propelled by a diesel engine may not allow that engine to idle**  
12 **for more than 5 consecutive minutes when the bus or truck is not**  
**in motion. A person who violates this subsection commits a civil**  
**violation for which a forfeiture not to exceed \$1,000 may be**  
**imposed.**

14 **2. Exceptions.** **Subsection 1 does not apply if:**

16 **A. The bus or truck is motionless because of traffic**  
18 **conditions over which the operator has no control;**

20 **B. Idling of the bus or truck is necessary to maintain a**  
22 **specific temperature for passenger comfort as required by a**  
24 **federal regulation, state rule or municipal regulation. The**  
**person may not idle the truck or bus for a time period**  
**longer than that needed to comply with the regulation or**  
**rule;**

26 **C. The bus or truck engine provides power for an auxiliary**  
28 **purpose, including loading, discharging, mixing or**  
30 **processing cargo; controlling cargo temperature;**  
**construction; lumbering; oil, gas or water well servicing;**  
**farming; and maintenance;**

32 **D. The bus or truck is used to perform emergency services;**

34 **E. The truck is used in mining or quarrying and is operated**  
36 **on property owned by either the operator of the truck or the**  
**owner of the truck; or**

38 **F. The operator intends to leave the bus or truck**  
40 **motionless for a period exceeding 2 hours and the ambient**  
42 **air temperature in the vicinity of the truck is forecasted**  
**to be less than 25° Fahrenheit throughout the entire period.**

44 **SUMMARY**

46 This bill prohibits a person from idling a diesel bus or  
48 truck for more than 5 minutes unless the bus or truck is  
50 motionless because of traffic conditions; idling is required to  
maintain a temperature for passenger comfort as required by a  
government regulation; the engine provides power for an auxiliary

2 purpose; the truck is performing emergency services; the truck is  
used in mining or quarrying and is operated on property owned by  
4 either the operator of the truck or the owner of the truck; or  
the truck will be motionless for more than 2 hours and the  
6 ambient air temperature during that period is expected to be less  
than 25° Fahrenheit throughout the entire period.