

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

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Legislative Document

No. 84

H.P. 75

House of Representatives, January 9, 2001

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

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Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

*Millicent M. MacFarland*

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative GLYNN of South Portland.

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

2  
3       **Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §2054, sub-§1, ¶B**, as amended by PL 1999, c.  
4 29, §2, is further amended by amending subparagraphs (17) and  
5 (18) to read:

6  
7           (17) A vehicle operated by a qualified deputy sheriff  
8 or other qualified individual to perform court  
9 security-related functions and services as authorized  
10 by the State Court Administrator pursuant to Title 4,  
11 section 17, subsection 15; ~~or~~

12  
13           (18) A Federal Government vehicle operated by a  
14 federal law enforcement officer; ~~or~~

15       **Sec. 2. 29-A MRSA §2054, sub-§1, ¶B**, as amended by PL 1999, c.  
16 29, §2, is further amended by enacting subparagraphs (19) and  
17 (20) to read:

18  
19           (19) A personal vehicle operated by an active member  
20 of a municipal or volunteer fire department, only when  
21 the member is en route to or at the scene of a fire or  
22 other emergency; or

23  
24           (20) A personal vehicle operated by an active member  
25 of an emergency medical service, only when the member  
26 is en route to or at the scene of an emergency.

27       **Sec. 3. 29-A MRSA §2054, sub-§2, ¶A**, as enacted by PL 1993, c.  
28 683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

29  
30           A. Only an ambulance; an emergency medical service vehicle;  
31 a fire department vehicle; a police vehicle; a Department of  
32 Conservation vehicle used for forest fire control; a  
33 Department of Corrections vehicle as described in subsection  
34 1, paragraph B, subparagraph (6); a personal vehicle  
35 operated by an active member of a municipal or volunteer  
36 fire department or an emergency medical service, only when  
37 the member is en route to or at the scene of a fire or other  
38 emergency; and a highway maintenance vehicle may be equipped  
39 with a device that provides for alternate flashing of the  
40 vehicle's headlights.

41       **Sec. 4. 29-A MRSA §2054, sub-§2, ¶F**, as amended by PL 1995, c.  
42 22, §1, is further amended to read:

43  
44           F. Only vehicles listed in this paragraph, rural mail  
45 vehicles as provided in paragraph C, subparagraph (5) and  
46 school buses may be equipped with, display or use a red  
47 auxiliary or emergency light.  
48  
49  
50

2 (1) Emergency lights used on an ambulance, an  
4 emergency medical service vehicle, a fire department  
6 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,  
white and amber lights on a vehicle. The light lights  
16 and siren may be displayed but may be used only while  
the member is en route to or at the scene of a fire or  
18 other emergency. ~~The light must be mounted as near as~~  
~~practicable above the registration plate on the front~~  
20 ~~of the vehicle or on the dashboard.~~ The lights may be  
mounted on the roof, rear deck, front grille or  
22 dashboard of the vehicle. A light mounted on the  
dashboard must be shielded so that the emitted light  
24 does not interfere with the operator's vision.

26 (3) Members of an emergency medical service licensed  
by Maine Emergency Medical Services may display and use  
28 on a vehicle ~~a flashing red signal light of the same~~  
~~properties~~ 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.

32 **Sec. 5. 29-A MRSA §2054, sub-§9** is enacted to read:

34 **9. Use of lights or sirens; requirements; revocation.**

36 Active members of a municipal or volunteer fire department or an  
emergency medical service as listed under subsection 1, paragraph  
38 A, subparagraphs (19) and (20) must meet the following  
requirements:

40 A. Be at least 21 years of age;

42 B. Have completed 3 years of active service in a municipal  
44 or volunteer fire department or an emergency medical  
service; and

46 C. Have completed a state-certified emergency vehicle  
48 operators or emergency ambulance operators course prior to  
exercising the privilege of using a light and siren.

50

2 The privilege of using a light or siren may be revoked at any  
4 time for misconduct by a municipal officer or a municipal  
6 official designated by the municipal officers, with the approval  
8 of the fire chief or the chief official of the emergency medical  
10 service.

### 8 SUMMARY

10 This bill permits municipal and volunteer firefighters and  
12 emergency medical services personnel to use a siren and flashing  
14 red, white and amber lights on a personal vehicle while en route  
16 to or at the scene of a fire or other emergency. It also  
18 provides that such vehicles are covered by the rules of operation  
applying to authorized emergency vehicles. The bill also adds  
requirements that must be met before a person may use a siren and  
flashing light on a personal vehicle.