

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)



121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

Legislative Document

No. 197

H.P. 156

House of Representatives, January 21, 2003

An Act to Require Flashing Lights for Private Snow Plows

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative BENNETT of Caribou.
Cosponsored by Senator MARTIN of Aroostook and
Representatives: CHURCHILL of Washburn, JACKSON of Fort Kent, PARADIS of
Frenchville, SMITH of Van Buren, USHER of Westbrook, WOTTON of Littleton, YOUNG of
Limestone, Senator: KNEELAND of Aroostook.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §2054, sub-§2, ¶C,** as amended by PL 2001, c.
5 360, §6, is further amended to read:

6 C. The use of amber lights on vehicles is governed by the
7 following.

8
9 (1) A vehicle engaged in highway maintenance or in
10 emergency rescue operations by civil defense and public
11 safety agencies and a public utility emergency service
12 vehicle may be equipped with auxiliary lights that emit
13 an amber light.

14
15 (2) A wrecker must be equipped with a flashing light
16 mounted on top of the vehicle in such a manner as to
17 emit an amber light over a 360° angle. The light must
18 be in use on a public way or a place where public
19 traffic may reasonably be anticipated when servicing,
20 freeing, loading, unloading or towing a vehicle.

21
22 (3) A vehicle engaged in snow removal or sanding
23 operations on a public way must be equipped with and
24 display at least 2 auxiliary lights mounted on the
25 highest practical point on the vehicle and provide
26 visible light coverage over a 360° range. The lights
27 must emit an amber beam of light, be at least 6 inches
28 in diameter and be equipped with blinking attachments.
29 In lieu of the lights specified, a vehicle may be
30 equipped with at least one auxiliary rotating flashing
31 light having 4-inch sealed beams and showing amber
32 beams of light over a 360° range or an amber strobe, or
33 combination of strobes, that emits at a minimum a beam
34 of 1,000,000 candlepower and provides visible light
35 coverage over a 360° range. When the left wing of a
36 plow is in operation and extends over the center of the
37 road, an auxiliary light must show the extreme end of
38 the left wing. That light may be attached to the
39 vehicle so that the beam of light points at the left
40 wing. The light illuminating the left wing may be
41 controlled by a separate switch or by the regular
42 lighting system and must be in operation at all times
43 when the vehicle is used for plowing snow on public
44 ways.

45
46 (4) A vehicle equipped and used for plowing snow on
47 other than public ways may must be equipped with an
48 auxiliary rotary flashing light that must be mounted on
49 top of the vehicle in such a manner as to emit an amber
50 beam of light over a 360° angle, or an amber strobe, or

2 combination of strobes, that emits at a minimum a beam
of 1,000,000 candlepower and provides visible light
4 coverage over a 360° range. The light may be in use on
a public way only when the vehicle is entering the
6 public way in the course of plowing private driveways
and other off-highway locations.

8 (5) A rural mail vehicle may be equipped with
auxiliary lights.

10 (a) The lights used to the front must be white or
12 amber, or any shade between white and amber.

14 (b) The lights used to the rear must be amber or
red, or any shade between amber and red.

16 (c) The lights, whether used to the front or
18 rear, must be mounted at the same level and as
widely spaced laterally as possible.

20 (d) The lights, whether used to the front or
22 rear, must flash simultaneously.

24 (e) The lights must be visible from a distance of
at least 500 feet under normal atmospheric
26 conditions at night.

28 (6) A vehicle used or provided by a contract security
company to assist in traffic control and direction at
30 construction or maintenance sites on a public way may
be equipped with auxiliary lights. Effective July 1,
32 1996, the auxiliary lights must be amber. Prior to
July 1, 1996, the auxiliary lights must be green or
34 amber.

36 (7) A Department of Public Safety vehicle operated by
a motor carrier inspector may be equipped with
38 auxiliary lights that emit an amber light.

40
SUMMARY
42

This bill requires vehicles used for plowing snow on private
44 ways to be equipped with a rotary amber flashing light.