

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2005

Legislative Document

No. 113

H.P. 89

House of Representatives, January 11, 2005

**An Act To Allow Animal Control Officers and Individuals Who
Collect Trash To Use Flashing Amber Lights on Their Vehicles**

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative BROWNE of Vassalboro.
Cosponsored by Senator SAVAGE of Knox and
Representatives: FINCH of Fairfield, FITTS of Pittsfield, FLETCHER of Winslow,
THOMPSON of China.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §2054, sub-§2, ¶C**, as amended by PL 2003, c.
4 209, §1, is further amended to read:

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

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

20 (2) A wrecker must be equipped with a flashing light
22 mounted on top of the vehicle in such a manner as to
24 emit an amber light over a 360' angle. The light must
26 be in use on a public way or a place where public
28 traffic may reasonably be anticipated when servicing,
30 freeing, loading, unloading or towing a vehicle.

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

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

2 combination of strobes, that emits at a minimum a beam
of 50 candlepower and provides visible light coverage
4 over a 360` range. However, the vehicle must be
equipped with and must use such a light whenever the
6 vehicle enters a public way while in the course of
plowing private driveways and other off-highway
8 locations. The light may be in use on a public way
only when the vehicle is entering the public way in the
10 course of plowing private driveways and other
off-highway locations.

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

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

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

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

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

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

32 (6) A vehicle used or provided by a contract security
company to assist in traffic control and direction at
34 construction or maintenance sites on a public way may
be equipped with auxiliary lights. Effective July 1,
36 1996, the auxiliary lights must be amber. Prior to
July 1, 1996, the auxiliary lights must be green or
38 amber.

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

44 (8) A vehicle used by an animal control officer
appointed pursuant to Title 7, section 3947 may be
46 equipped with auxiliary lights that emit a flashing
amber light.

48 (9) A refuse, garbage or trash business vehicle used
50 by an individual to transport refuse, garbage and trash
may be equipped with auxiliary lights that emit a
52 flashing amber light.

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SUMMARY

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This bill adds animal control officers and businesses that collect trash to the list authorizing use of flashing amber lights on vehicles.