

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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2005

L.D. 243

DATE: 4/28/05

(Filing No. H-220)

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TRANSPORTATION

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
122ND LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 182, L.D. 243, Bill, "An Act To Allow Emergency Responders To Equip Their Vehicles with 2 Emergency Flashing Lights"

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the summary and inserting in its place the following:

Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §2054, sub-§2, ¶F, as amended by PL 2005, c. 14, §3, is further amended to read:

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

(1) Emergency lights used on an ambulance, an emergency medical service vehicle, a fire department vehicle, a fire vehicle, a rescue vehicle or a hazardous material response vehicle must emit a red light or a combination of red and white light.

(2) ~~The municipal officers or a municipal official designated by the municipal officers, with the approval of the fire chief, may authorize~~ use of emergency lights by an active member of a municipal or volunteer fire department ~~to use a flashing red signal light not more than 5 inches in diameter on a vehicle. The light~~

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

may be displayed but may be used only while the member is en route to or at the scene of a fire or other emergency. The light must be mounted as near as practicable above the registration plate on the front of the vehicle or on the dashboard. A light mounted on the dashboard must be shielded so that the emitted light does not interfere with the operator's vision. is governed by the following.

(a) The lights must be authorized by the municipal officers or a municipal official designated by the municipal officers, with the approval of the fire chief.

(b) The member may display one flashing red signal light not more than 5 inches in diameter on a vehicle. The light must be mounted as near as practicable above the registration plate on the front of the vehicle or on the dashboard. A light mounted on the dashboard must be shielded so that the emitted light does not interfere with the operator's vision.

(c) In lieu of one flashing red signal light, the member may display any combination of 2 flashing red or white lights of a size capable of being mounted above the front bumper and below the roof of the vehicle. The lights must be mounted on the front of the vehicle and in a manner so that the emitted light does not interfere with the operator's vision.

(d) The lights may be displayed but may be used only while the member is en route to or at the scene of a fire or other emergency.

(e) Prior to exercising the privilege of using emergency lights granted under this subparagraph, the member must complete a state-certified emergency vehicle operators or emergency ambulance operators course.

(f) The privilege of using lights may be revoked at any time by the fire chief for misconduct.

(3) Members of an emergency medical service licensed by Maine Emergency Medical Services may display and use lights on a vehicle a flashing red signal light of the same proportion, in the same location and under the same conditions as those permitted municipal and

R. G. S.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 182, L.D. 243

2 volunteer firefighters, when authorized by the chief
3 official of the emergency medical service. Prior to
4 exercising the privilege of using emergency lights
5 granted under this subparagraph, the member must
6 complete a state-certified emergency vehicle operators
7 or emergency ambulance operators course. The privilege
8 of using emergency lights granted under this
9 subparagraph may be revoked at any time by the chief
10 official of the emergency medical service for
11 misconduct.'

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SUMMARY

15 This amendment replaces the bill. The amendment allows
16 municipal and volunteer firefighters and emergency medical
17 services personnel to use either one flashing red light or any
18 combination of 2 red or white lights on personal vehicles while
19 en route to or at the scene of fires or other emergencies. It
20 also requires that a person may use emergency lights on a
21 personal vehicle only upon completion of a state-certified
22 emergency vehicle operators or emergency ambulance operators
course.